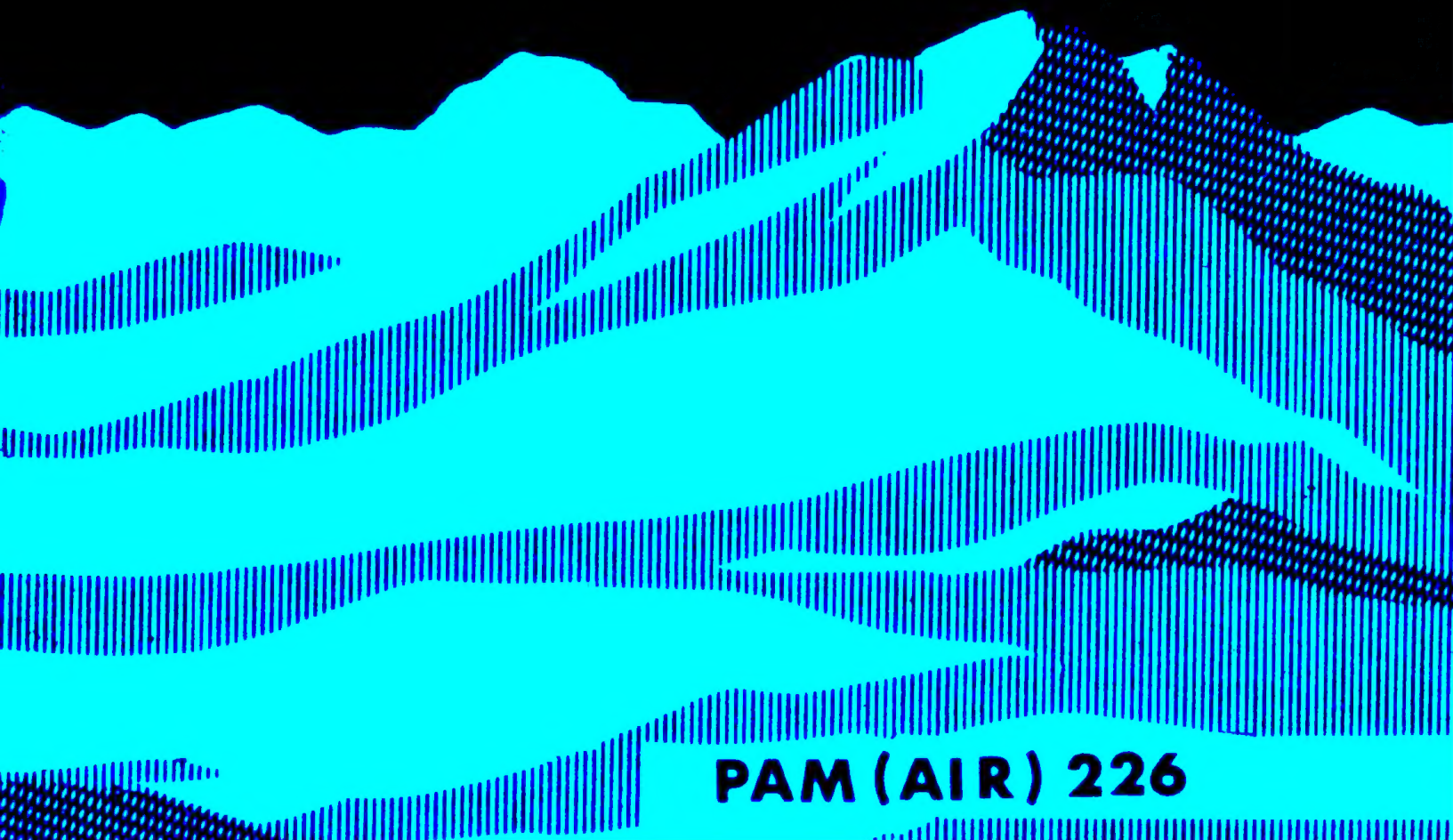


RESTRICTED

# ARCTIC SURVIVAL



**PAM (AIR) 226**

RESTRICTED

ARCTIC  
SURVIVAL

THIS PAMPHLET IS TO BE  
INCLUDED IN THE EMERGENCY  
PACKS OF AIRCRAFT OPERATING  
OVER THE ARCTIC

(Obsolete information on old  
radio Morse sets is omitted)

P A M (A I R) 226

ISSUED BY  
THE AIR MINISTRY (A.D. RESCUE)

—  
1953

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# ARCTIC SURVIVAL

## INTRODUCTION

1. Survival depends on two, largely psychological, factors: the determination to live and the elimination of fear. Fear is caused through ignorance, in other words *inadequate training*. However, no amount of training or other material aid will suffice without the natural instinct of self-preservation.

2. **The Arctic** The Arctic has been defined geographically as the area north of the Arctic Circle at latitude  $66^{\circ}33'N$ . From the survival aspect, however, it is more practical to consider the area north of the timber line as Arctic. Along certain Siberian rivers forests grow up to 400 miles north of the Arctic Circle, while along the west shore of the Hudson Bay the tree line is 400 miles south of the Circle. These areas north of the timber line, with a mean annual temperature below  $32^{\circ}F.$ , are known as "barren lands". The region includes the north coasts of Alaska, Canada, Scandinavia, and the U.S.S.R.; the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, Greenland, and the majority of Iceland.

3. **The Sub-Arctic** The sub-arctic is a belt of coniferous vegetation of variable width south of the Arctic Circle. Within it the mean annual temperature is above  $32^{\circ}F.$  It includes most of Alaska and the interior of Canada, the northern territories of the U.S.S.R., and the most of Scandinavia. The term must be used flexibly.

4. **Other Cold Regions** The principles of arctic survival have to be applied to other mountainous or desolate regions where low temperatures at high altitudes, high winds, a permanent snow covering, or other wintery phenomena prevail at various times. These regions include the Rocky Mountains, the Andes and the Himalayas.

5. **The Arctic Climate** The Arctic is bleak, and in the winter cold, but it is not, as many people think, a region of continual snowstorms, and howling gales where the temperature is always "sixty below". Many Eskimos and quite a few white people live there contentedly. The idea that snow is always falling arises from



the fact that snow is easily stirred by the wind long after it has stopped falling. The two seasons, a long-winter and a short summer, are clearly defined and the temperature varies considerably. In general, the interior areas have the coldest winters and the warmest summer. A temperature of  $-96^{\circ}\text{F}$ . has been recorded in Central Siberia. At the other end of the scale, temperatures of  $80^{\circ}\text{F}$ . in the shade are common in many places north of the Arctic Circle. The annual temperature range may be as much as  $176^{\circ}\text{F}$ .; as at Fort Yukon, on the Arctic Circle, where a maximum summer temperature of  $100^{\circ}\text{F}$ . in the shade, and a minimum winter temperature of  $-76^{\circ}\text{F}$ ., have been recorded. With these high temperatures it is not unusual to find a summer landscape which can be favourably compared with the Orkneys and Shetlands.

## **PRE-FLIGHT PREPARATION**

### **Prepare for Trouble**

6. The best time to start learning what to do when you have been forced down in arctic regions is before the event. The correct preparation involves acquiring a thorough knowledge of:—

- (a) Cold-weather flying clothing.
- (b) Safety and survival equipment.
- (c) Emergency drills and procedures.
- (d) The principles of survival.

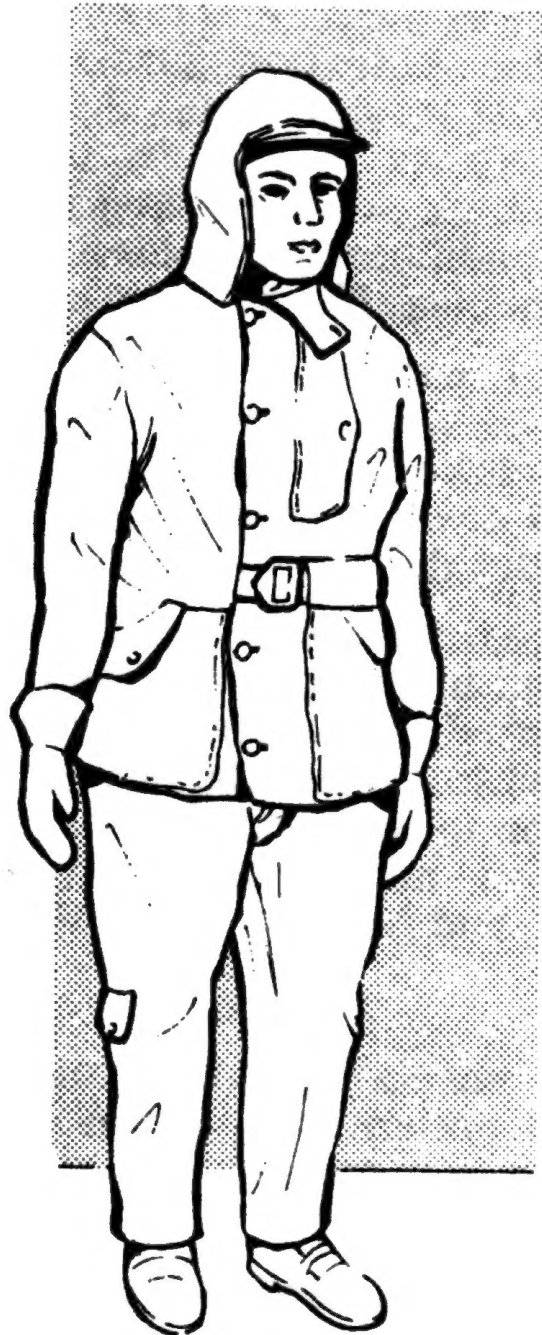
### **Cold-Weather Flying Clothing**

7. Cold-weather flying clothing has been designed to enable aircrew to fly effectively in any type of aircraft, and particular emphasis has been made on freedom of movement. The main essentials are to keep windproof outer materials intact over sufficient inner insulating clothing, and the avoidance of any tight or restrictive clothing. In survival conditions you must depend for warmth, not on fires or fuel stoves, but on your clothing. Your clothing is your first line of defence against low temperatures and high winds. **BE PREPARED.** Dress for the possible emergency and adjust the temperature of the cockpit accordingly.

8. **Inner Clothing** The principle of correct underclothing is not thickness but insulation. Air in fact forms the main insulation

of all materials used in clothing. The inner flying clothing consists of multiple layers of loosely fitting garments each designed to fit over the clothing immediately beneath it, holding a layer of air between the garments. Your inner clothing will normally consist of:—

(a) A string vest made of thick cotton cord, knitted in a wide mesh. The wide mesh holds a layer of air in contact with the body.



(b) Pyjama-type inner trousers worn under war service flying dress trousers. The looseness of the underpants holds air and allows free circulation and ventilation. In very cold conditions two pairs should be worn.

(c) A woollen aircrew shirt with attached collar and buttoning cuffs. A tie should not be worn during flight because it would restrict ventilation at the neck.

(d) A long-sleeved, slit-necked, ribbed woollen pullover. A draw cord is provided at the neck opening to help in the control of ventilation.

(e) A necksquare made of soft cotton and resembling a large dishcloth. It effectively protects the neck opening and allows some ventilation at the neck. It is designed to protect the face in high wind conditions, and at night, when the face is the only part of the body not protected by the sleeping bag.

Fig. 1.  
Cold Weather Flying Clothing

**9. Outer Clothing** Outer garments must be windproof and durable. The weave must be close to prevent snow compacting into the material. A certain degree of porosity is necessary to

allow water vapour to escape and evaporate in the cold dry air. You will normally wear:—

(a) A cold-weather flying overall which is essentially two garments, trousers and jacket, which have been combined to make an overall as this is more effective in flight conditions. For ground survival the jacket, or inner parka, and the trousers can be separated to allow adequate ventilation. Draw cords are provided at the bottoms of the trousers legs: these are intended for use in survival conditions to help in keeping snow out of the trousers and boot tops. A hood is attached to the jacket and in normal flying conditions it is folded neatly at the back. The face aperture can be closed by a draw cord.

(b) A cold-weather cap made of windproof material and lined with woollen fabric. It may be worn alone or under the hood of the flying overall or outer parka. The cap has internally stowed flaps which can be turned down to give protection to the back of the neck, ears, and forehead.

(c) An outer parka to be worn in extreme cold over the flying overall. It has both windproof and insulating properties. The collar, to which the hood is attached, is fur-lined. The hood, closed by a draw cord, is designed to protect the face in high wind chill conditions. An extension to the hood, for use in the severest weather, consists of an adjustable wire-stiffened curtain edged with wolverine fur, and helps in preventing the wind reaching the face.

**10. Handwear** Handwear must be insulating and windproof, and must not be tight. Mittens are preferred to gloves as the fingers will give mutual warmth, but mittens are not ideal for aircrew. The handwear assembly consists of:—

(a) Long woollen wristlets which give protection to the wrist and the back of the hand.

(b) Inner mitts of wool.

(c) Outer mitts made of soft leather. The palm of the hand is lined with a wool pile material, and a pad of the same material is sewn on the back. This pad is used for warming the nose or the face in the event of frostbite, and also as a nose wiper.



## **Pyrotechnics**

34. You will have a limited supply of emergency pyrotechnics, and possibly the aircraft signal pistol and cartridges. Fire them only when you are fairly certain that there is a chance of them being seen by the search aircraft. The search aircraft at night, using the Night Service Technique, will fire green cartridges every 5 to 10 minutes. When the survivors see a green light, they should wait for the aircraft to clear the glare and then fire a red pyrotechnic; after a short interval fire a second one. If the search aircraft sees the reds he will turn towards the first one and check his course on the second one, at the same time firing a succession of green lights until he is overhead. The survivors should conserve their pyrotechnics, and only fire a third red signal when the aircraft is almost overhead or is going off course.

## **SHELTER**

35. In the winter you cannot stay in the open and expect to live, unless you are on the move. You must have shelter even if it is only a hole in the snow. Shelter is less important in summer, but it will provide comfort and relaxation under the most ideal conditions. The type of shelter you elect to build will depend on:—

- (a) What tools are available.
- (b) What materials are available.
- (c) What you need shelter from—wind, snow, cold, rain, or insects.
- (d) How long you expect to remain in that location.

Regardless of the type, the shelter must provide adequate ventilation to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning and to allow moisture to escape.

## **Selection of Site**

36. A summer camp site should not be on low-lying ground, which is likely to be damp, or in areas that might be flooded. Select a spot in cool breeze to keep the insects away, either on top of a ridge, or the shores of a cold lake, or a place that gets an onshore breeze. The lee of boulders and shelving rocks should provide dry camp sites.



37. During winter, protection from the wind is a prime consideration. Avoid the lee of slopes and cliffs where snow may drift heavily and bury your shelter.

38. In mountain camp sites avoid areas which you suspect are subject to avalanches, floods, and rockfalls. Temperature inversions are common in the Arctic so do not camp on a valley floor; it may be several degrees warmer on the slopes.

39. If on sea ice, the site must be on the thickest ice, the biggest floe, and away from thin ice joining two floes where pressure ridges may form.

40. With all sites the nearness to fuel and water must be considered. An ideal camp site is seldom found, and a compromise may be necessary. A site which does not give protection from the wind can be protected by a windbreak. Other deficiencies of a camp site may be similarly overcome.

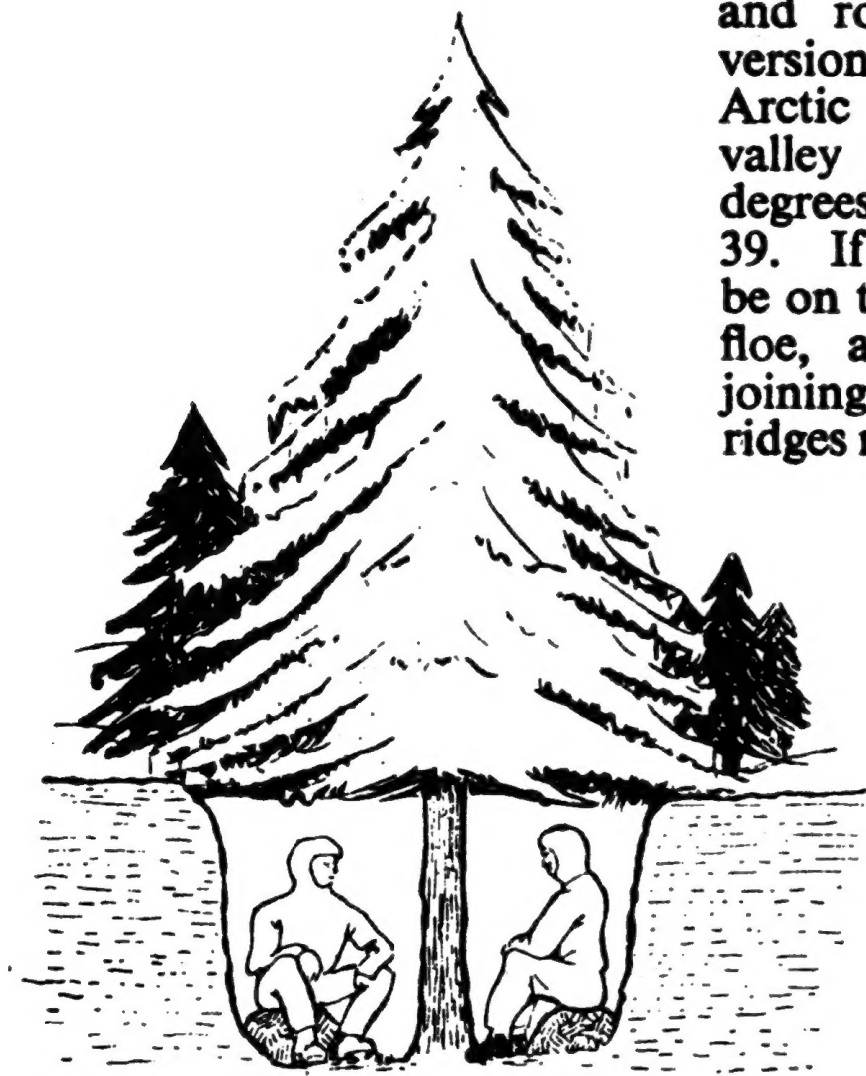


Fig. 4. Natural Hole under a Tree converted into a Shelter

### Natural Shelters

41. Caves and overhanging rockshelves will often provide dry shelters. They should be used in the winter only if well insulated, and in summer only if they can be made insect-proof. In timbered country where the snow is deep, spruce trees often provide ready-made shelters. The natural hole under the lower branches will provide a quickly available shelter. The lower branches at snow level will form the roof. (Fig. 4.)

## Aeroplane Shelters

42. In the summer the fuselage will make an adequate shelter if it is on safe ground; it is waterproof and can be made insect-proof with parachutes. It **SHOULD NOT** be used as a shelter in winter unless it is well insulated. The metal is a good conductor of heat and will quickly dissipate any available heat. In Winter you can make two types of shelters using a wing or tailplane as a roof or support. The first, a snow block shelter, is made by piling up snow blocks to form a windbreak, walled shelter, or snow-house. The second is made by hanging engine covers or a parachute over the wing. The loose ends can be anchored by rocks or piles of snow.

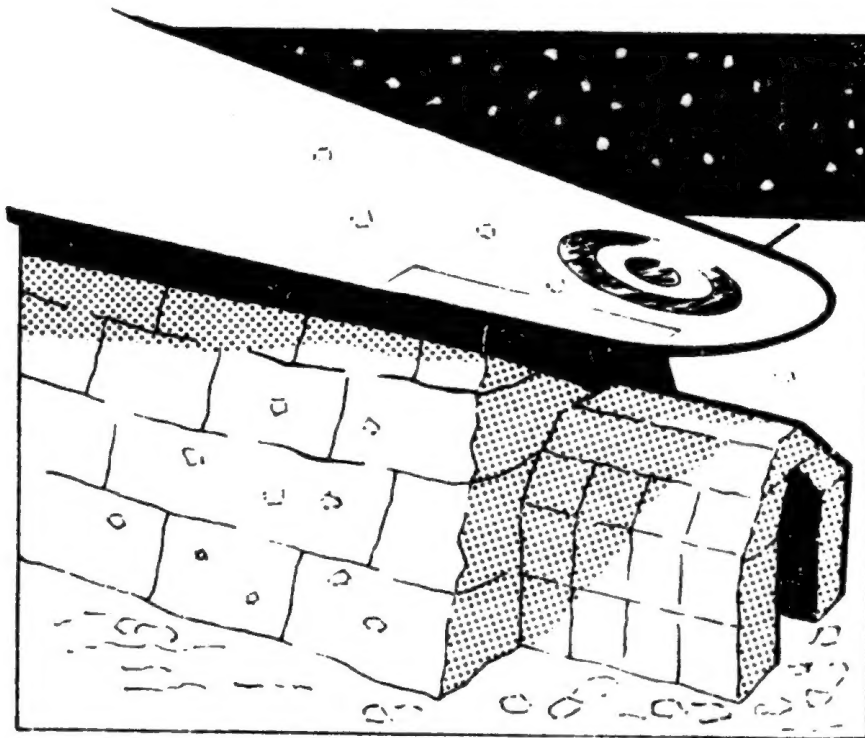


Fig. 5. Wing-Snowblock Shelter

## Parachute Shelters

43. **Paratepee** An excellent shelter for protection against drizzly weather and insects is made from a parachute canopy. In it you can build a fire, cook, eat, sleep, dress, and make signals—all without going out of doors. You will need ten good poles about 12 to 14 feet long, and half a parachute canopy. The method of construction is shown in the illustrations. The other half of the canopy can be used as additional tenting to provide insulation, should the weather demand it.

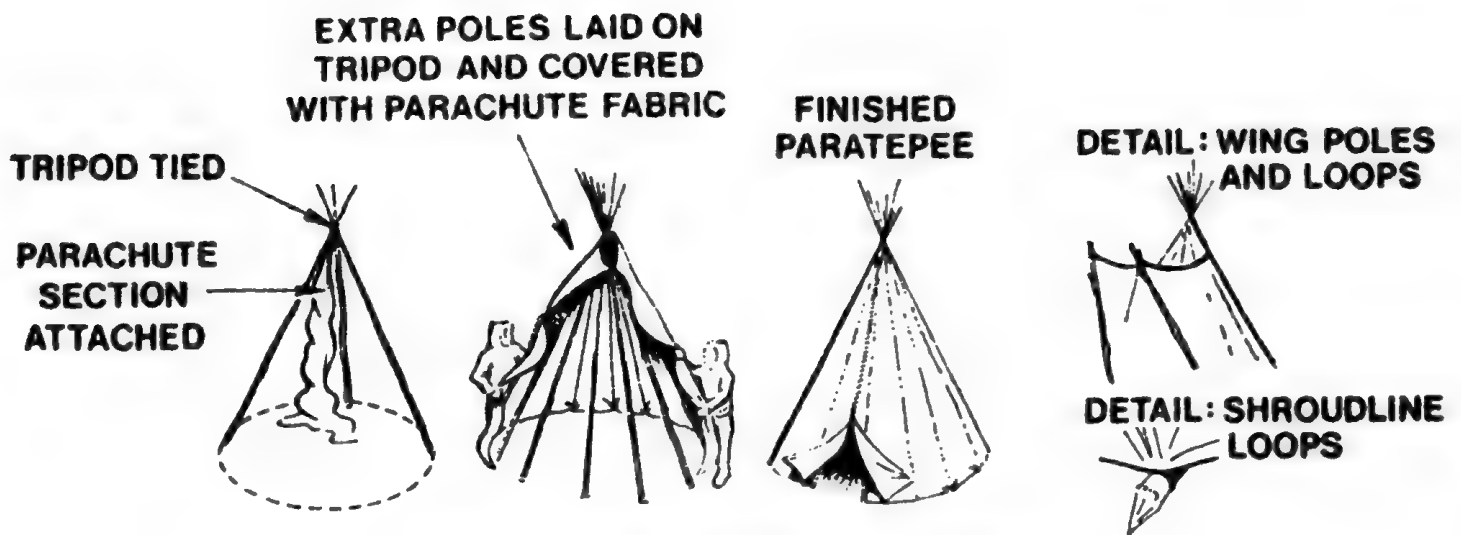


Fig. 6. Construction of Paratepee

**44. Pup Tent** A simple pup tent can be made by placing a rope or pole between two trees or stakes and draping a parachute over it. Stretch the corners down and secure them with stones or pegs.

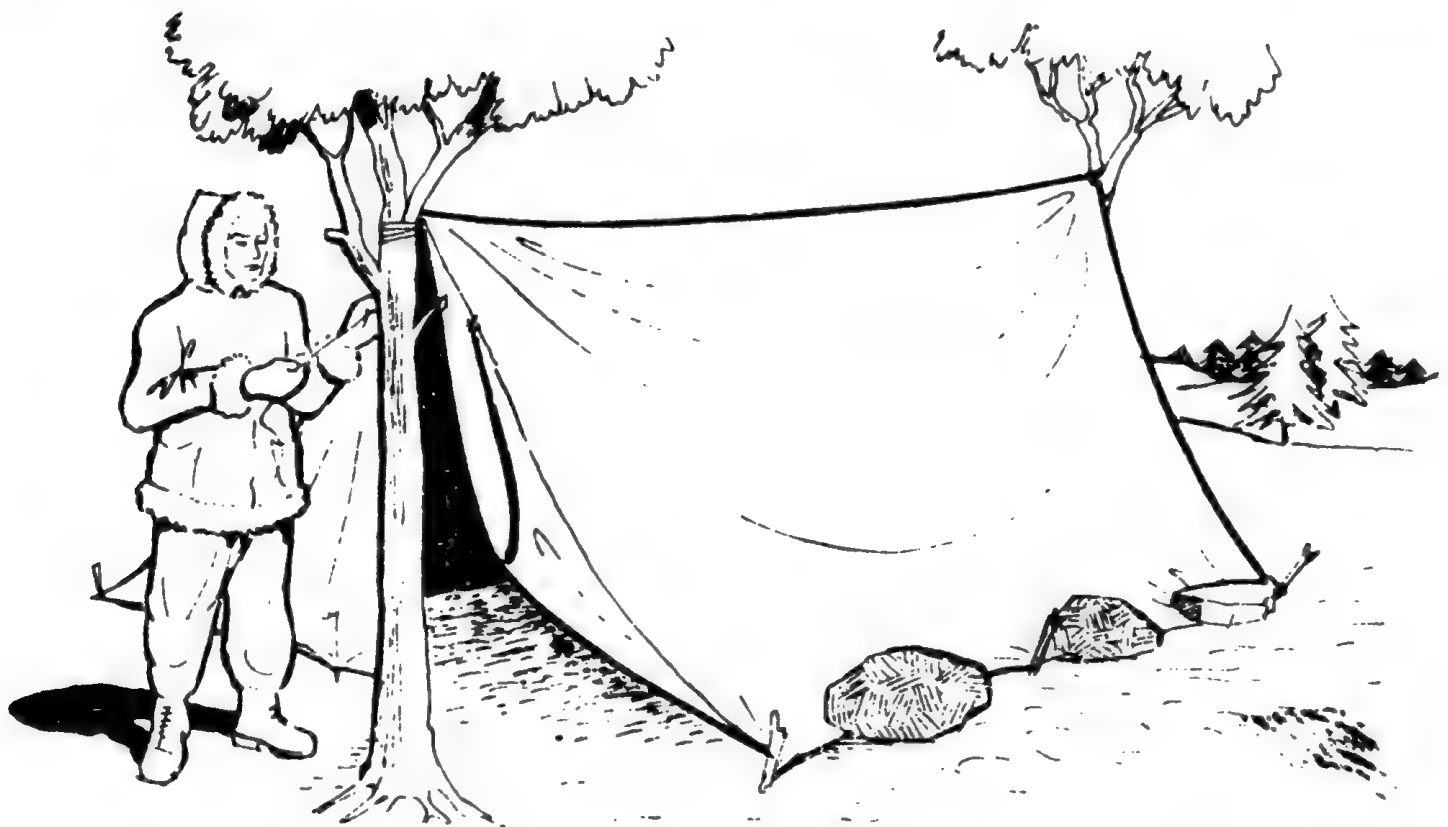


Fig. 7. Pup Tent

**45. Simple Bell Tents** A variety of bell tents can be constructed. Always use the double layer principle to provide adequate insulation.

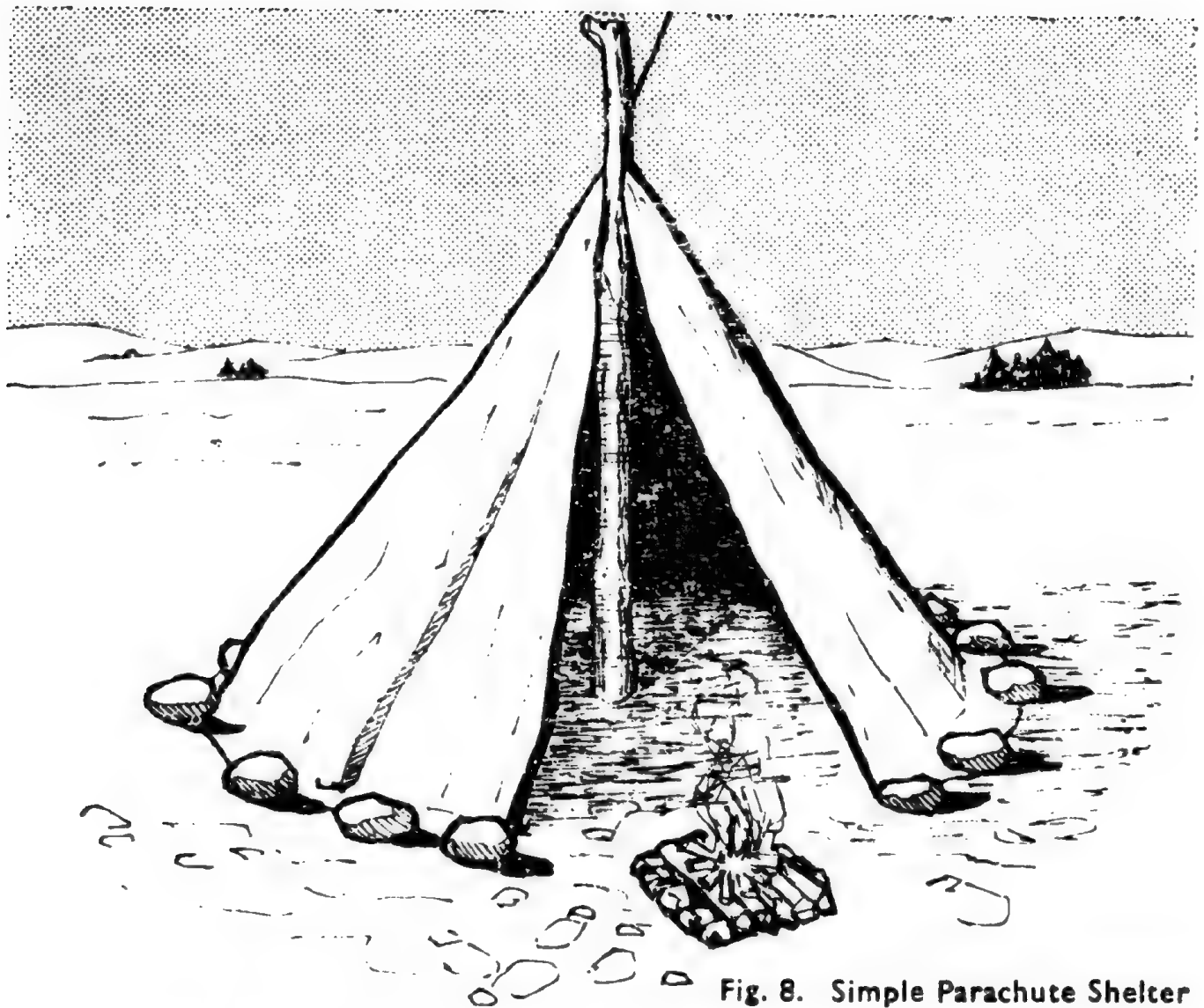


Fig. 8. Simple Parachute Shelter



Fig. 9. Double Bell Tent



**46. Willow Shelter** Where willows are plentiful this shelter can be made very quickly. The floor area should just accommodate the sleeping bags and the maximum height should just allow the occupants to sit up without their heads touching the roof. The tunnel-like construction is shown in Fig. 10. The framework can be covered with several layers of parachute canopy which may be anchored with snow.

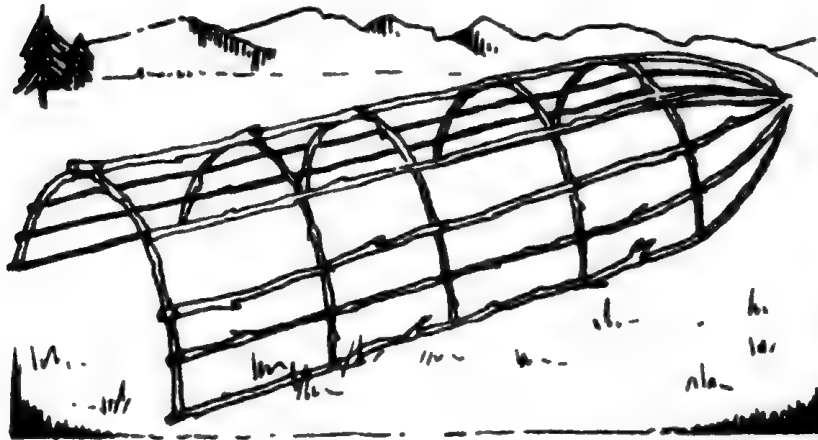


Fig. 10.

Construction of  
Willow Shelter

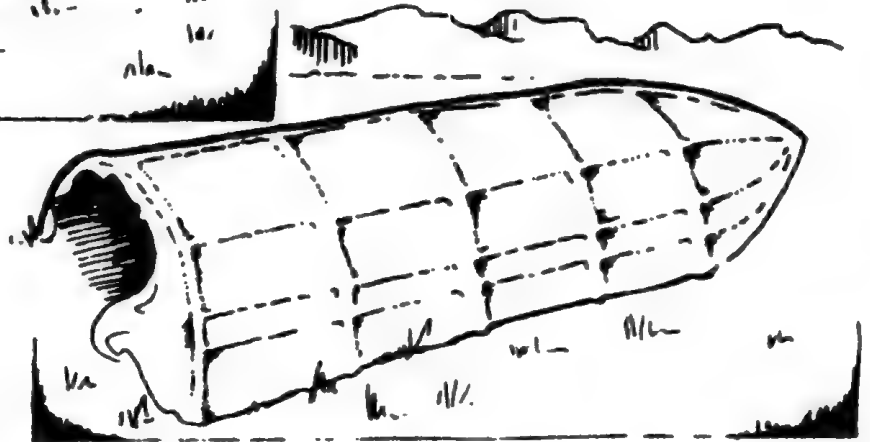
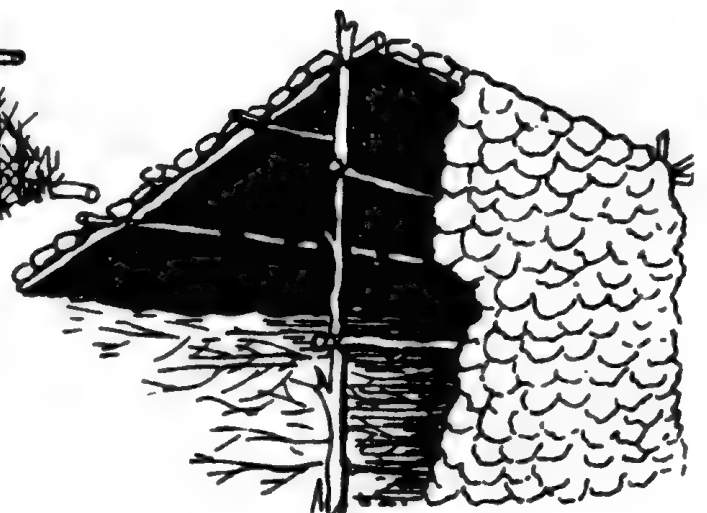


Fig. 12. Bough Den



Fig. 11. Lean-to



## **Wood Shelters**

**47. Lean-to and Bough Shelters** If you are in timbered country and have plenty of wood, the best shelter is a lean-to. A good three-man lean-to is shown in Fig. 11. The roof can be covered by sod blocks, spruce boughs, or any similar materials should be woven in from the top like a tiled roof to prevent rain from entering the shelter. A quickly improvized temporary shelter is a two-sided bough den (Fig. 12); it requires fewer poles and less time to build than a lean-to, but it cannot be waterproofed as efficiently.

## **Snow Shelters**

**48.** The type of snow shelter you can construct will depend on the quality of the snow. You will have to decide whether or not the snow is suitable for cutting up into snow blocks. The ideal snow for snow block shelters is that upon which a man can walk without breaking through or leaving deeply embedded footprints. The snow must also be tested by pressing a probe into it slowly; if it goes in evenly the snow is ideal for cutting snow blocks. Snow blocks should measure about 18 inches wide by 20 inches long and four to eight inches thick. Blocks of this size should be easy to cut and handle. They will be thick enough to provide good insulation and strength, yet thin enough to allow maximum penetration of the sun's rays. The lighter the interior the warmer it will be and fuel will not have to be used for light. In addition, a light inside a snow block shelter makes a good beacon at night.

**49. Snow Trench** The ideal snow block shelter is the snow trench, which is designed for one man. Start the construction by marking out a rectangular floor area; big enough to accommodate only one sleeping bag. Remove the snow from this area, by cutting out snow blocks, to the full width of the trench and to a depth of four feet. Along the top edges of the sides of the trench, cut an L-shaped step six inches deep and six inches wide; these steps serve as a base for the snow blocks when the trench is roofed. At the end away from the entrance, place two blocks on the steps on each side of the trench and lean them together to start forming an inverted V roof. The two blocks should be offset, so that after the first pair of blocks are joined, it will be necessary to handle only one block at a time. Each end of the roof should be covered with

blocks and an entrance dug through the snow at the down-wind end. If the snow is not four feet deep, the walls can be constructed of snow blocks to the required height.

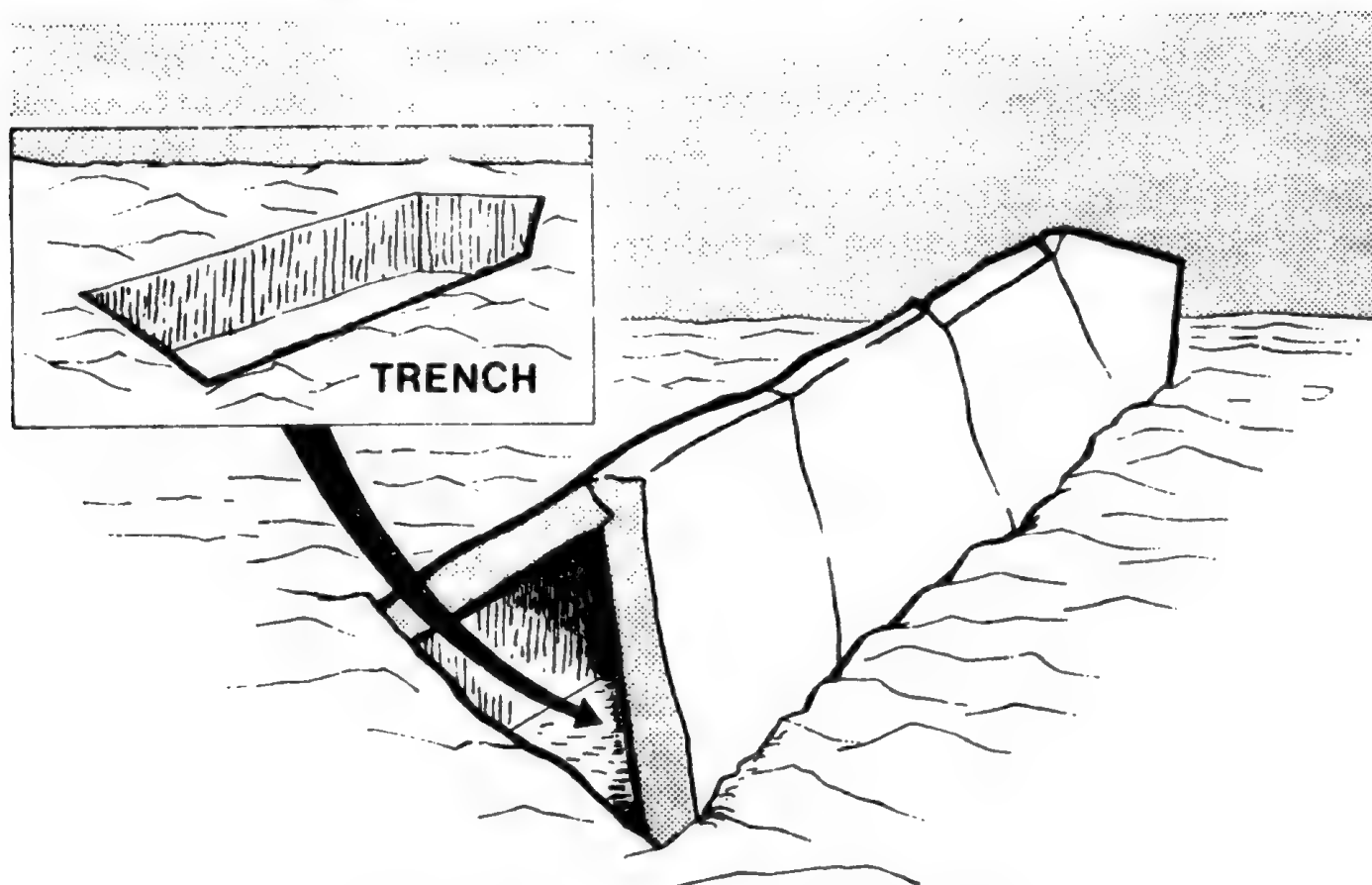


Fig. 13. Construction of Snow Trench

#### 50. Snow Caves and Snow Holes

(a) A snow cave can be dug wherever snowdrifts of sufficient depth can be found. Caves are difficult to dig without getting wet and are therefore less desirable than a trench-type shelter. The roof of the cave should be arched to allow moisture to run down the walls without dripping. Also, an arched ceiling will not sag readily from the weight of the snow above.

(b) An excellent temporary shelter can be constructed by simply digging a hole in the snow and using your parachute canopy as a roof.

51. Big crews should build individual or two-man snow shelters radiating from a central or communal entrance. The entrance can be protected by a circular snow wall and tented with a parachute canopy.

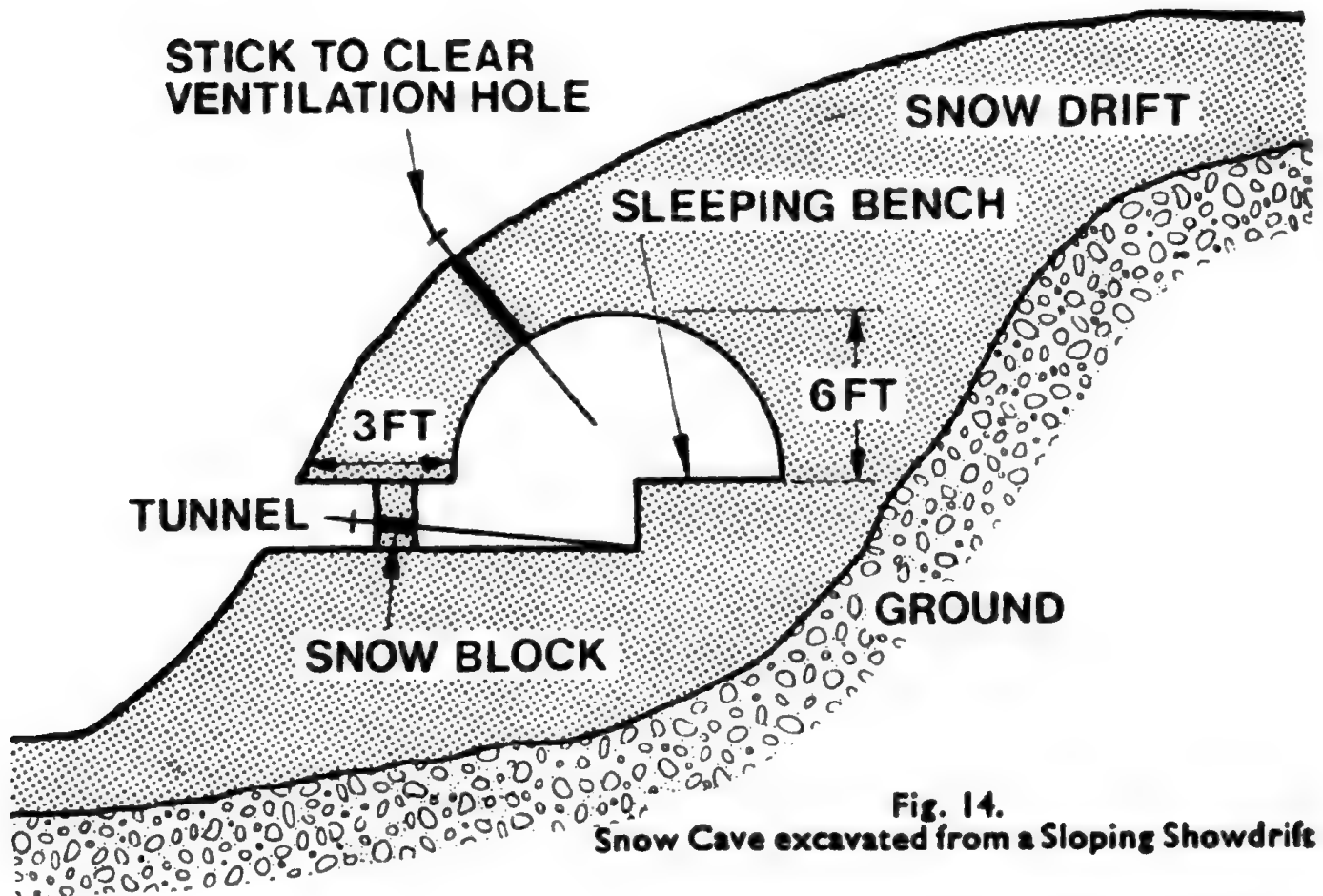


Fig. 14.  
Snow Cave excavated from a Sloping Showdrift

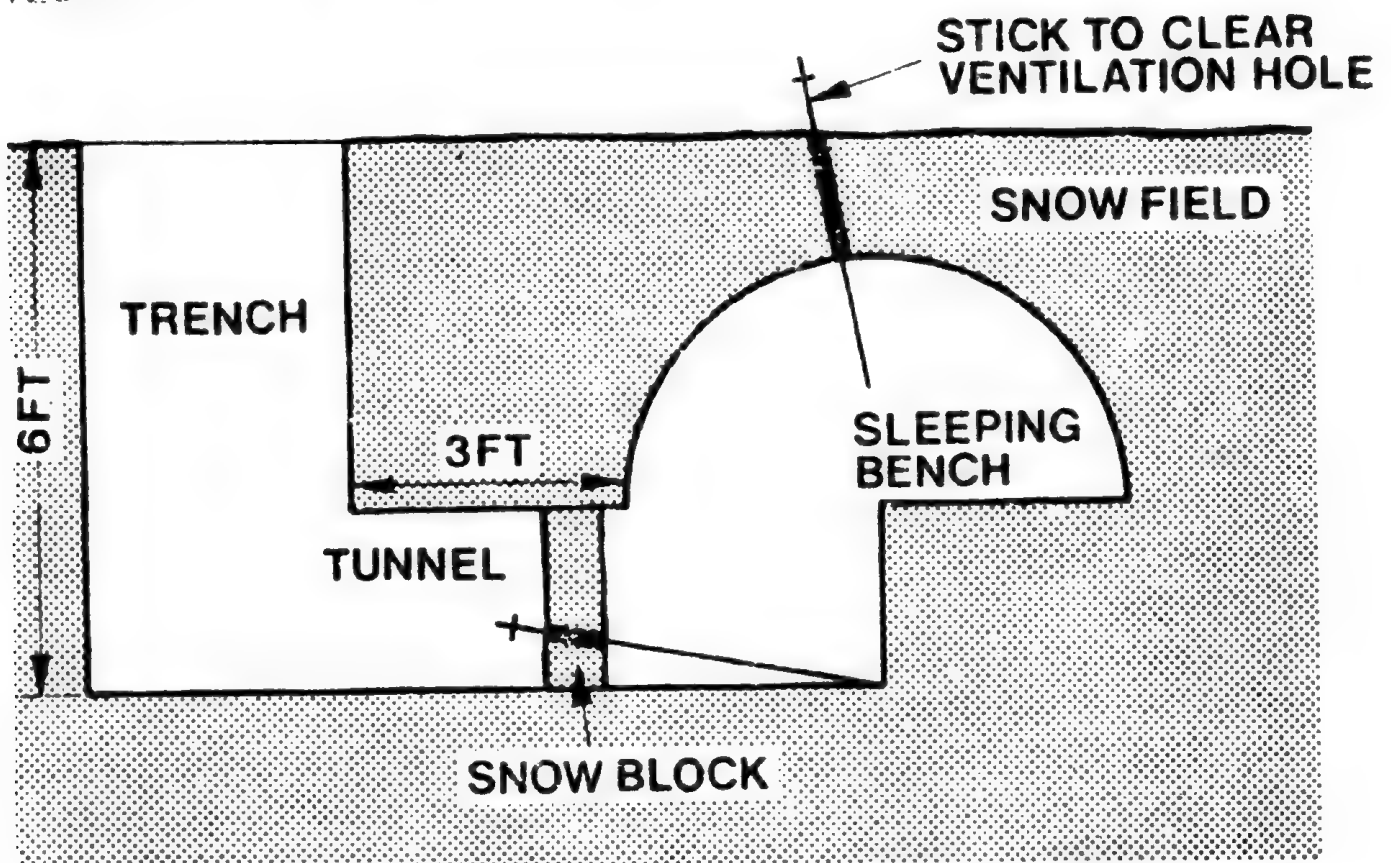


Fig 15. Snow Cave dug from the side of a Trench in a Flat Snowfield



## **Beds and Bedding**

52. In snow shelters beds should be made on a sleeping bench which will raise you into the warmer air of the shelter. In all types of shelters beds should be well insulated from the actual floor of the shelter. Depending on your resources the following make good insulating material:—

- (a) Parachute canopy, backpad, or seat cushion.
- (b) Inverted dinghy.
- (c) Lifejacket.
- (d) Seat cushions, asbestos, etc., from the aircraft.
- (e) Ferns, shrubs, lichens, moss, evergreen boughs (particularly spruce tips).

Your insulating can be as thick as time permits; six inches at least is desirable. Rearrange it regularly to prevent packing down.

## **Practical Hints**

53. The following points should not be neglected:—

- (a) The smaller the shelter the warmer it will be.
- (b) Adequate ventilation to prevent asphyxiation and carbon monoxide poisoning is of vital importance.
- (c) Two ventilation holes, one near the top of the shelter and the other at the entrance, must be kept clear. One hole is not sufficient, as the air cannot then circulate.
- (d) Shovels and tools must be taken into snow shelters, as it may often be necessary to dig a way out if snowfalls or drifting occur.
- (e) The entrance of each shelter must be clearly marked so that it can be easily found.
- (f) A mark should be made on the snow above each shelter to show its position and to prevent men from walking over the roof.
- (g) Drips in snow shelters can be stopped by putting a piece of snow on the source of the drip.
- (h) The roof should be at least twelve inches thick unless the snow is very hard, when six inches may be sufficient.
- (j) Snow floors should be well tramped down before starting to build the shelter.

## FIRES AND EMERGENCY STOVES

54. During survival you are kept warm by a combination of body heat, insulative clothing, and shelter. However, you will need a fire to prepare hot food and drinks in order to maintain and replenish your body heat. A fire is also necessary for drying clothes, for signalling, and to provide external heat. In extreme cold, however, very little heat can be obtained from a fire unless you get so close that you are liable to scorch your clothing. A fire will increase your morale, particularly during the long dark winter days.

55. Your immediate source of heat for cooking is supplied by the emergency stove in the aircraft survival pack; however, this will not be available should you bale out. Your personal survival pack contains candles, which are most suitable for heating snow shelters, fire-making tablets, and matches. These immediate sources of heat may be supplemented, according to your natural fuel supply, by open fires and improvised stoves.

### Fires

56. The main ingredients for a good open fire are a good fire-place, kindling, fuel, and a means of lighting the kindling. To these can be added a little knowledge and a lot of patience.

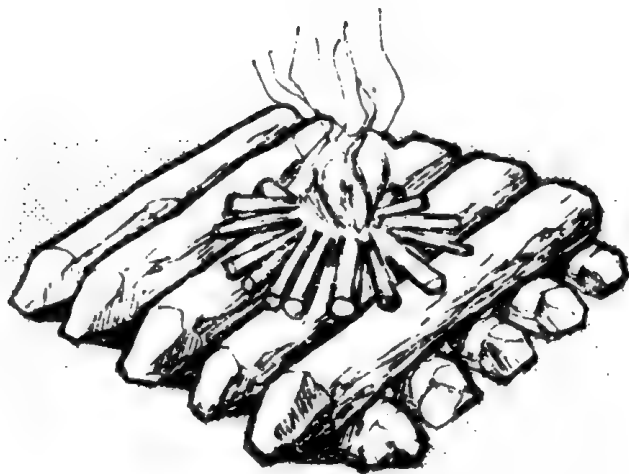


Fig. 16. Log Platform for Fire

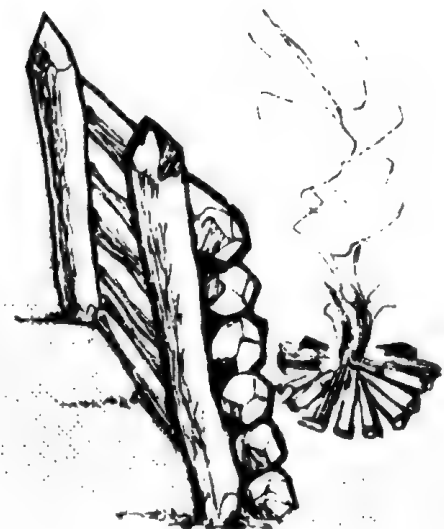


Fig. 17. Log Reflector for Fire

**57. Fireplaces** Prepare the location of your fires carefully. Don't build a fire under a snow-covered tree—snow may fall and put out the fire. Protect domestic fires from the wind, and so save fuel. Build the fires on a firm platform; use green logs, stones, cow-lings, or dig down to firm soil. Cooking fires should be walled in by green logs or stones, not only to concentrate the heat but to provide a platform for your cooking pot. Fires for warming shelters should be built against a reflector of rocks or green logs to direct the heat into the shelter.

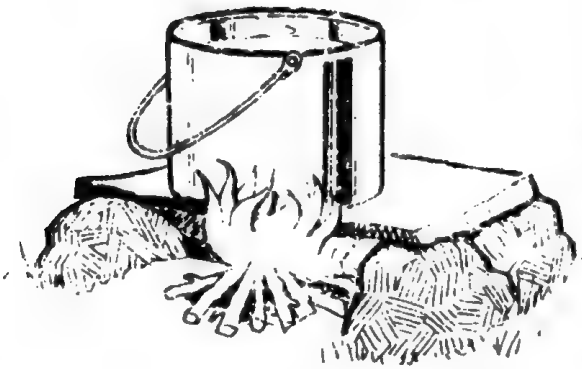


Fig. 18. Cooking Platform

**58. Kindling** You will need some easily inflammable kindling to get a fire going. Pick up kindling whenever you can find it, even if you do not expect to make camp for some hours. Gather birch bark, dry lichens, twigs, resinous shrubs, bits of fat (if not required for food), feathers, tufts of dry grass and sedges against the possibility of a shortage of good kindling at the camp site. Larger twigs can be cut in "feather fashion" if kindling



Fig. 19. Birch Bark Under-layers

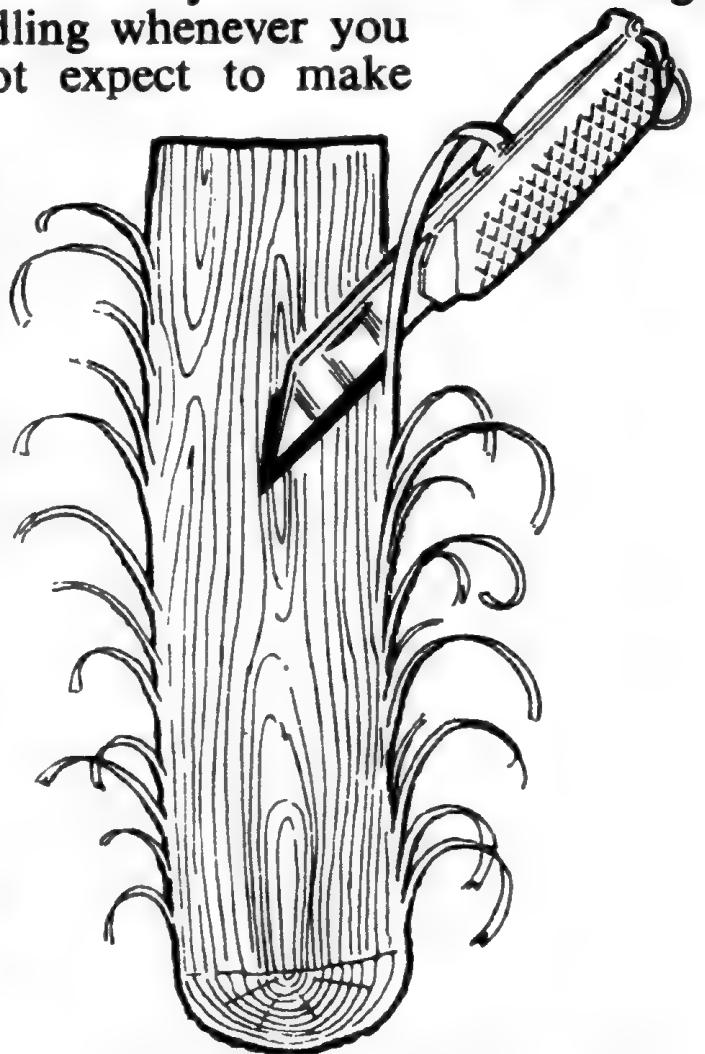


Fig. 20. Feathering Wood for Tinder

is scarce. Paper or rags and twigs soaked in fuel or oil are good artificial kindling.

## 59. Natural Fuel

(a) *Wood*. Even in polar regions there are clumps of dwarf willow and birch. Birch is oily and if split fine will burn even if wet. Standing deadwood and dead branches provide your best fuel; the dead trees can be easily pushed over and chopped up. Lying deadwood and driftwood is likely to be frozen or waterlogged and is useless unless dried out. Green timber can be burned on a hot fire.

(b) *Coal*. Outcrops may be found occasionally on the surface and coal may be found washed up on beaches.

(c) *Animal Fats*. Use animal fats for food rather than fuel. You will derive more heat from fat you eat than from fat you burn.

(d) *Gassiope*. In some barren grounds, where there is no driftwood and little willow or birch, the Eskimos depend almost entirely on this plant for fuel. It is a low, spreading, evergreen plant, with tiny leaves and white bell-shaped flowers. It grows from four to twelve inches high and contains so much resin that it will burn even when green or wet.

(e) In treeless areas you can find other natural fuels such as dry grass which can be twisted into bunches, peat dry enough to burn (found at the top of undercut river banks), and dried animal dung. Try anything for fuel, but in small quantities until you are certain of its qualities.

## Firelighting

60. Get all your materials together before you try to start the fire. Make sure your kindling and fuel are dry, and have enough fuel on hand to keep the fire going. Arrange a small amount of kindling in a low pyramid, close enough together to allow the flames to lick from one piece to another. Leave a small opening for lighting. Save matches by using a candle to light the fire, or make a faggot of thin dry twigs tied loosely. Apply the lighted candle or faggot to the lower windward side of the kindling, shielding it from the wind as you do so. Use the firemaking tab-



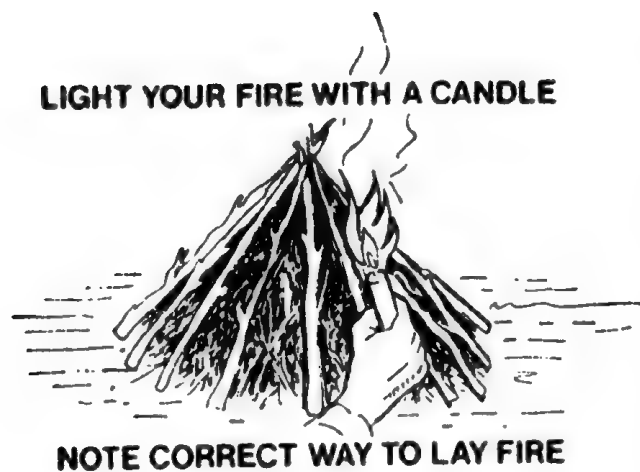


Fig. 21. Laying a Fire

lets only if the tinder is damp. Small pieces of wood or other fuel can be laid gently on the kindling before lighting, or can be added as the kindling begins to burn. Add larger pieces of fuel when the kindling pile is considered large enough to support and ignite them. Don't pack the wood so tight that the draught is shut off. Encourage the fire by blowing gently on it.

61. For a large fire, the sticks in each layer should be parallel to each other and at right angles to the layer below. Space the sticks so that the air can get between them and create a good draught. For a small fire lay the sticks in radial fashion, and as they burn push them into the fire. With this method longer sticks need not be chopped up.

### Emergency Fire Lighting

62. The availability of fire-lighting equipment may mean success or failure in a fight for survival. Many people have lost their lives because they have been unable to light a fire to provide warmth or attract attention. Your personal survival kit provides matches, candles, firemaking tablets, and a magnifying glass for this purpose.

63. Firemaking without matches requires bone-dry tinder which will burn very easily. Very dry powdered wood, finely shredded dry bark, cotton, twine, first-aid gauze bandage, fuzzy or wooly material scraped from plants, fine bird's feathers, or bird's nests are most suitable. You can make it burn more easily by adding a few drops of fuel.

64. **Burning Lens** An emergency burning lens may be obtained from binoculars, gunsights, bombsights, or cameras. The lens should be used to focus the sun's rays on the timber.

65. **Flint and Steel** A flint and steel is the easiest and most reliable way of making fire without matches. Your knife and sharpening stone or a piece of hard rock should produce a good spark. Hold the flint as near to the tinder as possible; strike it with a sharp scraping downward motion so that the sparks fall into the centre of the tinder.



Fig. 22. Lighting a Fire with Flint and Steel

66. **Bow Drill** Another standby is the bow drill. This consists of a bow made from a willow strung with some cord made from your parachute shroud lines. The drill is a circular shaft of dry wood around which the bow string is wound once. The drill shaft is pointed at one end and round at the other. The round end revolves in a depression made in a piece of wood which is held in one hand. Lubricate this depression. The point of the drill is placed in a notch in another piece of wood, which is filled with tinder. By holding the drill shaft in posi-

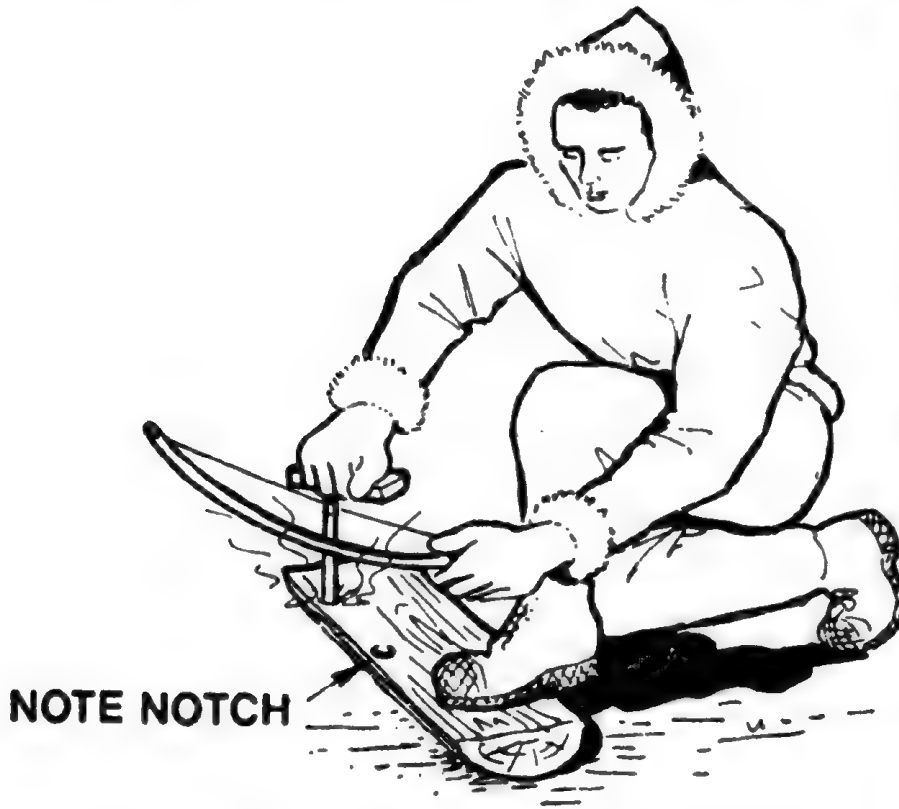


Fig. 23. Bow and Drill Method of Firemaking

tion and moving the bow back and forth in a sawing motion in a horizontal plane, friction is set up and the tinder ignited.

**67. Pyrotechnic** A pyrotechnic may have to be used to light a fire if all other means have failed. Weigh the use of the pyrotechnic as an emergency signal against the need of a fire. The powder extracted from a pyrotechnic will burn so quickly that it will be necessary to mix a slower burning material with it; powdered wood or shredded fabrics are the best mixing materials. The powder from one pyrotechnic will provide sufficient tinder for a number of fires. The unused powder should be kept dry. Above all, **be extremely careful when you are extracting the powder from the pyrotechnic.**

### **Stockpile**

**68.** Make all your preparations as far ahead as possible, regardless of whether or not you have been located. Stockpile fuel against bad weather or shortages. Stack it where it cannot be lost by drifting snow and protect it from rain. Prepare your kindling at least three fires ahead and store it inside your shelter.

### **Improvised Stoves**

**69.** Aircraft fuels such as rubber, wax insulation, fuel and oil are more economically burned in improvised stoves. These stoves can be used inside or outside the shelter as required. To burn petrol, place one or two inches of sand or fine gravel in a tin or similar container and saturate it with petrol. Make slots at the top of the can to let the flames and smoke out and punch holes just above the level of the sand to provide a draught. To make the fire burn longer mix some oil with the petrol. If you have no container dig a hole in the ground, fill it with sand or gravel and pour on the fuel. Be careful when lighting; the petrol may explode; protect your face and hands. Lubricating oil, kerosene, or animal fats will not burn directly, but you can use them with a wick arrangement. Make a wick of kapok, asbestos, rope, rag, etc., and support it in the oil with a wire frame. A very simple stove can be made by putting a candle in a ventilated tin can. This will provide all the heat required for a snow shelter. (Figs. 24 and 25.)

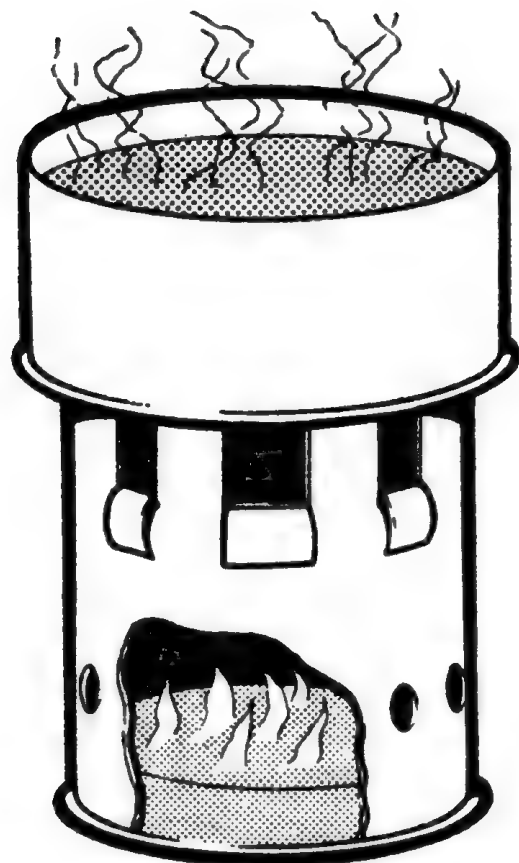


Fig. 24.  
Improved Petrol Stove

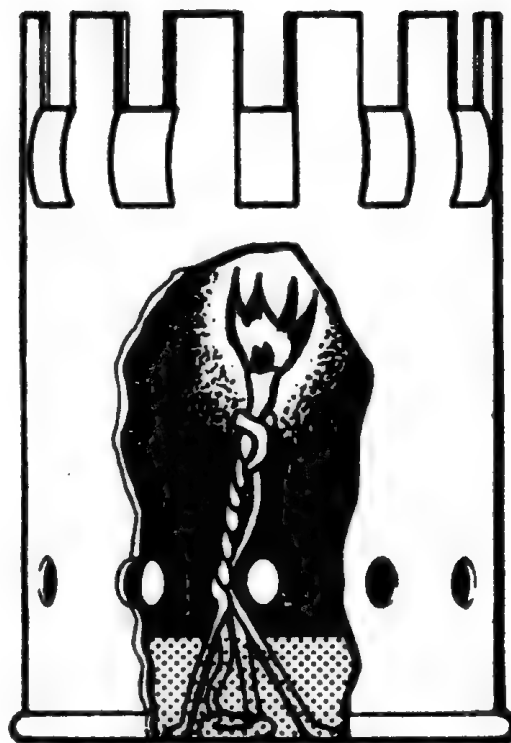


Fig. 25.  
Improved Stove using Wick  
to burn Oil or Animal Fat

## Ventilation

70. The need for proper ventilation cannot be over-emphasized. When open fires or stoves are burned inside shelters, carbon monoxide and other gases will accumulate unless the shelter is ventilated. Also if animal fats or oil are burned, good ventilation will carry away the heavy black smoke. If a vent is made in the lower portion of the shelter—the entrance should be sufficient—and another at the top, cold air will move in through the lower opening, be warmed, and pass out through the top vent. The current of air will carry away the carbon monoxide and soot. Remember that carbon monoxide is heavier than air and a man lying down will be first affected. To retain the maximum amount of heat in a shelter restrict the vent holes when fires are out. *Restrict the temptation to “get up a good fug”*

## FOOD

71. Take stock of all your available food. Your emergency food packs and uneaten flying rations are your immediate, and in the barren land probably your only, sources of food. Your

food pack has been designed to provide sustenance for three days' very hard work, five days' active work, or seven days' normal work. The food packs contain their own directions of how they should be used. In extreme cold, two hot meals a day are necessary one for breakfast and the other in the evening. Also, if you have enough, a hot drink at midday is desirable. Avoid drinking two hours before bedding down and remember to urinate immediately before getting into your sleeping bag.

## **Living Off the Land**

72. Contrary to general belief, food is not abundant in the Arctic. All wild life is migratory and, since neither the time nor the position of the crash can be predetermined, there is no point in attempting to take up the involved subject of seasonal game distribution. The game you get in survival will either be there or come there. It means that you should survey the locality, set suitable traps, and wait for the game to come. To get food from the land you will have to do some very determined foraging. Leave a man in the camp at all times as look-out, while the rest of the party searches for food; detail men for fishing or hunting according to their talents. Care should be taken to blaze a trail back to camp. In large aircraft you might be carrying some sort of firearms, but you will normally have to rely on the snares and fishing kits in your survival packs. Additional snares may be made from wire and parachute elastics salvaged from the crash. You will have to learn where to look for, and, in all except plant food, how to catch it. When you find local animal or plant food, eat as much as you want and save your emergency rations. Fat is heat-producing food and very important to your health in the Arctic. Eat a lot of fat only when you can drink at least two pints of water daily. If you have any doubt about the safety of any wild food use the following rule; eat a spoonful and wait eight hours; if there are no ill effects, such as vomiting or diarrhoea, eat a handful and wait another eight hours. If there are still no ill effects, you can eat reasonable quantities safely.

## **Animal Food**

73. Finding animals on the open tundra is not easy, but don't be too quick in deciding that the area is lifeless. Keep on the lookout for any signs of animal life—such as excrement, tracks,



hair, and, in extremely cold weather, "animal smoke" steaming from their bodies. These may put you on the trail of food. Wherever there is one kind of animal there are almost sure to be other forms of life. The animals you may find range from lemmings, which are stub-tailed mice, to polar bears. What you catch will depend on your facilities and skill. Small animals such as lemmings, muskrats, hares, woodchucks, squirrels, and snowshoe rabbits, can be caught with sling shots, snares, deadfalls, and other simple traps. The larger animals such as polar and brown bears, caribou, moose, seals, mountain sheep and, wolverine, are difficult to kill. They may be snared or captured by deadfalls and pit traps, but unless they are strangled or stunned they are hard to kill without a gun. Learn to attract animals by kissing the back of your hand vigorously and making a squeaking noise which indicates the presence of a wounded mouse or bird; that should definitely attract some hungry animal. But learn to conceal yourself.

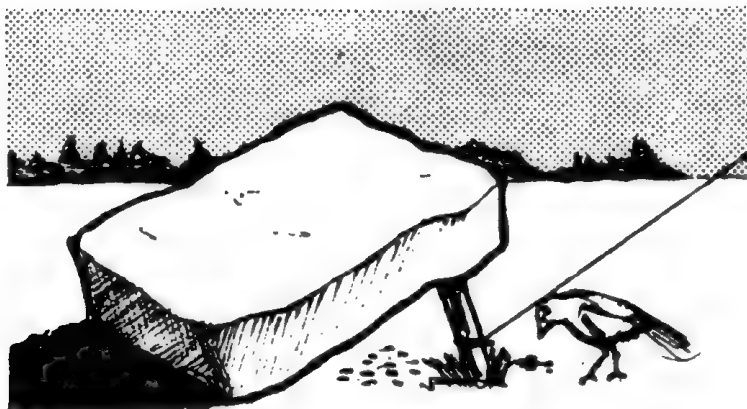


Fig. 26. Simple Deadfall

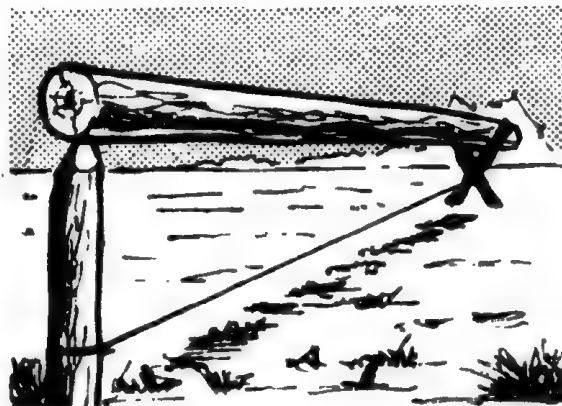


Fig. 27. Tripwire Deadfall

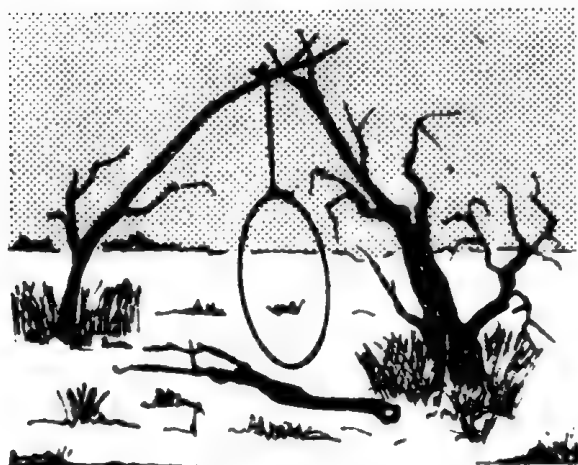
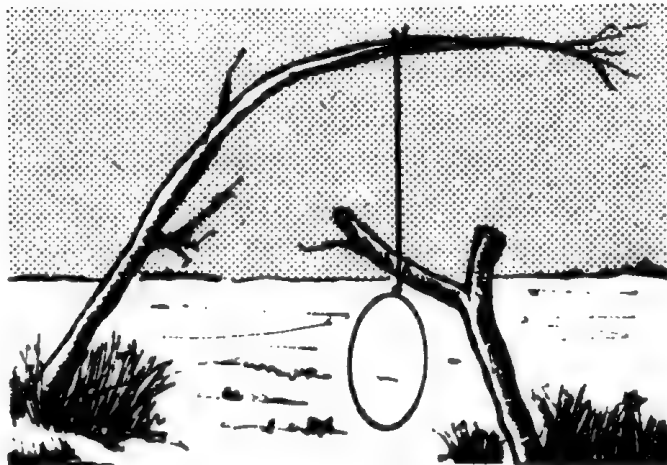


Fig. 28. Simple Snare



29. Trigger Snare

## **74. Hunting Hints**

- (a) Keep the wind in your face. A calm day is not generally windless; make sure of the wind direction.
- (b) Try to have the sun in your back, especially a rising or setting sun.
- (c) In timber country move slowly and carefully; don't break any twigs under foot or allow swinging branches to hit your clothing.
- (d) In hilly and mountainous country big game animals generally watch below them more than above. Keep slightly above the level where the game is most likely to be seen.
- (e) In mountainous country, cross currents make it less important to keep the wind in your face.
- (f) Animals are used to rolling stones in the mountains, therefore it is not quite so important to avoid noise.
- (g) Avoid crispy snow; try to hunt where snow is soft.
- (h) Don't expose yourself against a skyline.
- (j) Never stay on the game trail; all wild game watch their back trails.
- (k) If game is feeding, you can attempt to approach it by stalking in the open. Crawl slowly when all heads are down. Freeze motionless—whatever your position—the instant an animal starts to raise its head.
- (l) When shooting game aim for the vital areas: behind the ears, in the throat, or behind the foreshoulders. Much game is lost because it is out of range.

**75. Poisonous Animals** The liver of polar bears and bearded seals is poisonous at certain times of the year and should not be eaten. Rabbits are generally so lean and have so little food value that to get enough energy out of them you have to eat a little too much for comfort. Try to supplement your diet with other things.

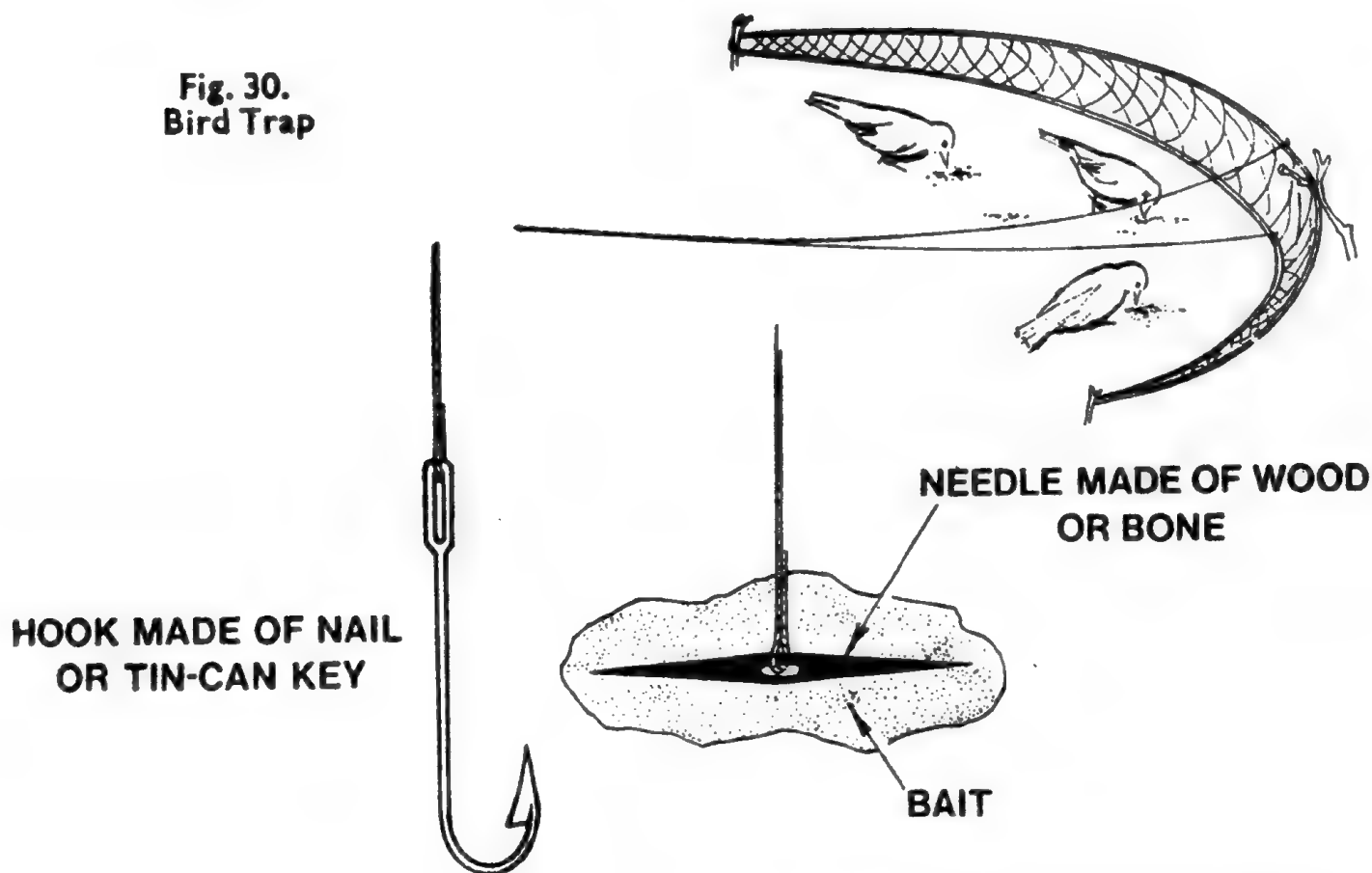
## **Bird Food**

**76.** Many northern birds nest in colonies which may run to hundreds of thousands of pairs. Near such a colony a man can keep alive—even without a gun. Some Arctic birds are well supplied

with fats—notably ducks, geese and swans. These water birds all go through a two- or three-week flightless period while they are moulting in midsummer. The best known winter birds are the ptarmigan or snow partridge, which is rarely fat; the white owl, which is usually fat and tasty; and the raven, which is tough. All birds are good to eat cooked or raw. Their blood and livers are edible. The feathers can be used for insulation. The entrails and toes make good bait.

**77. Bird Catching** Study bird habits closely. Hunt for birds on their meeting grounds on islands, cliffs, marshes and lakes, on coastal plains, and on flats in interior areas. An improvised slingshot is a good bird catcher. Ptarmigan are very tame and can be killed with a stick or stone. Gulls can be caught with a gorge hook and line; bait the hook and let it float on a piece of wood or stake it out on a beach. Eskimos set a simple noose snare in the nest itself to catch the bird's feet.

**Fig. 30.**  
**Bird Trap**



**Fig. 31.**  
**Hook for Catching Seagulls**

## Fish Food

78. The deeper streams, rivers lakes, and tidal pools are all worth fishing. Along most Arctic shores clams, mussels, snails, limpets, chitons, sea urchins and sea cucumbers, are plentiful. Don't eat shellfish that you find dead. Live shellfish move when touched or cling tightly to the rocks. The small blackish-purple mussel in Northern Pacific waters is poisonous at certain times of the year and should not be eaten. The chief characteristics of poisonous fish is that they lack ordinary scales, and instead have either a naked skin or are encased in a bony box-like covering or are covered with bristles, spiny scales, strong sharp thorns, or spines. Others puff up like a balloon on being taken out of the water. Cooking does not destroy the poisonous alkaloids in these fish. Never eat a fish that has slimy gills, sunken eyes, flabby flesh or skin, or an unpleasant odour. If on pressing the thumb against the fish it remains deeply dented, the fish is probably stale and should not be eaten. Avoid all types of jelly fish.

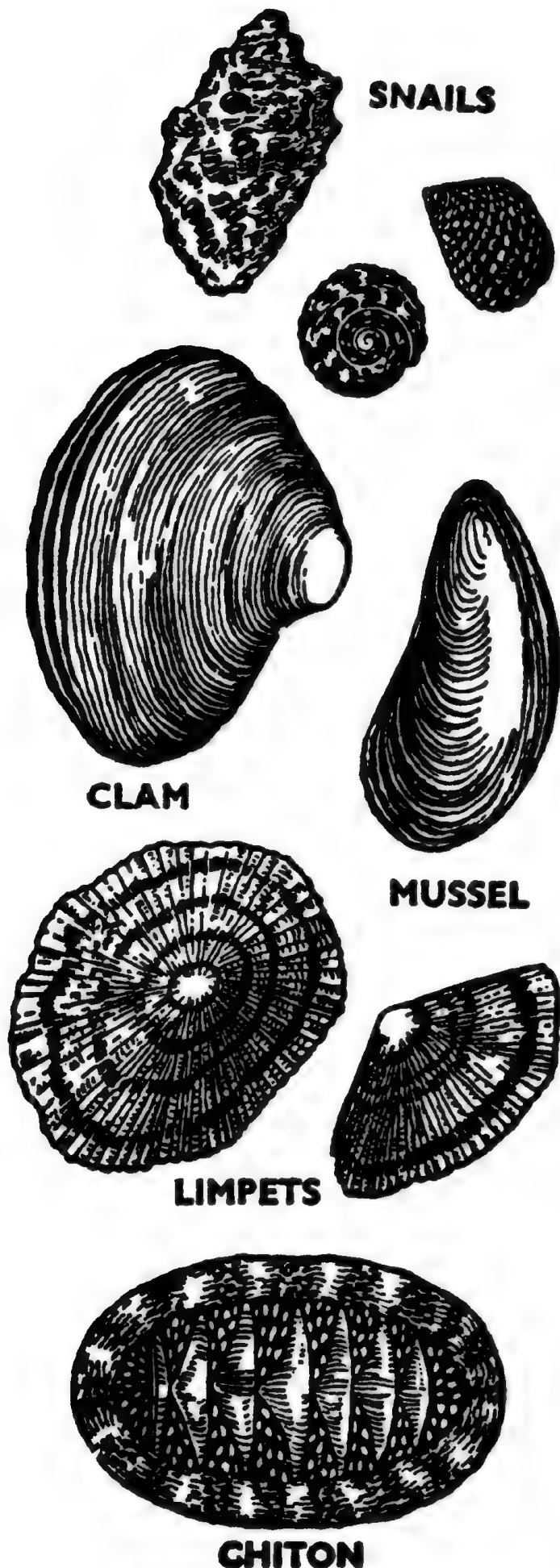


Fig. 32. Edible Seafood

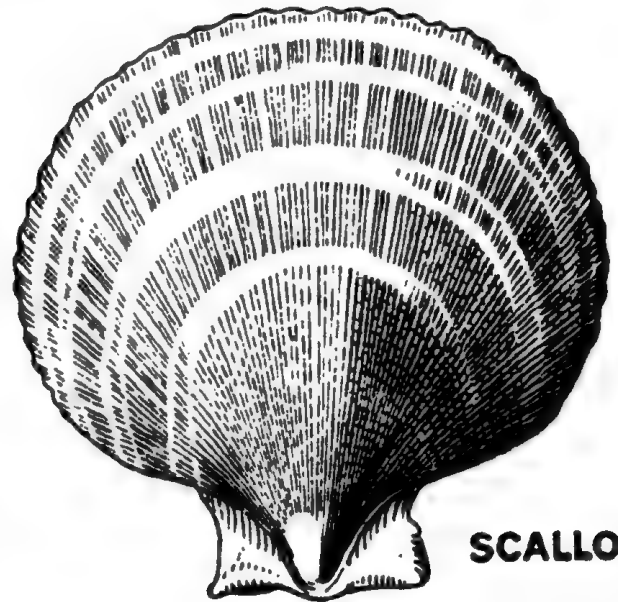




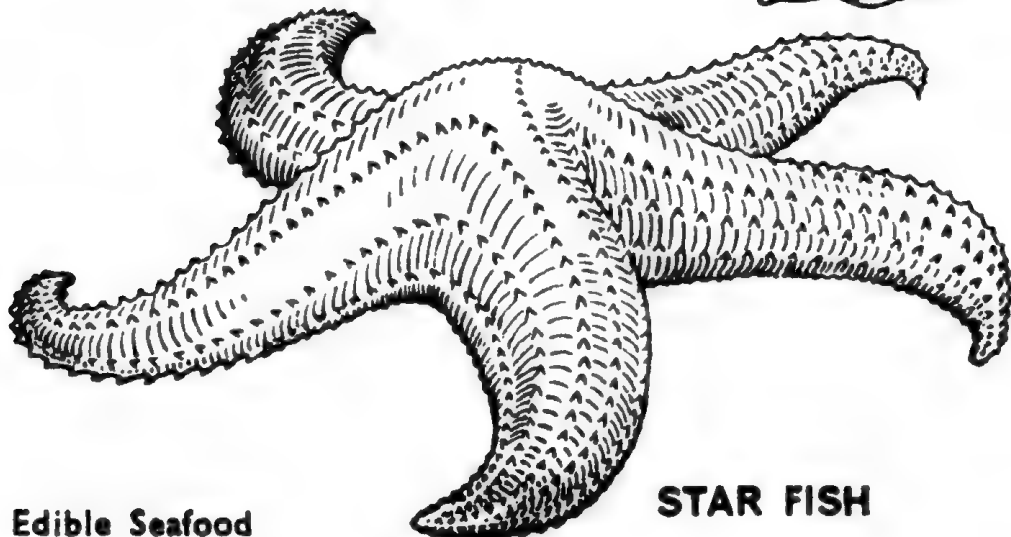
**SEA CUCUMBER**



**SEA URCHIN**



**SCALLOP**



**STAR FISH**



**79. Fishing Equipment** The fishing gear in your survival kit is not your only means of catching fish. They can be speared, caught in improvised nets, or stunned with sticks and stones. In shallow water you can even catch them with your hands. Those who have a fish net, or know how to make one and use it properly, will catch the most fish. Remember that a net works twenty-four hours a day.

**80. Line Fishing** In addition to your fishing kit, hooks can be made from stiff wire or tin openers, and lines from the inner cords of your parachute shroud lines. Another effective device is a fishing needle of wood or bone sunk in bait (see Fig. 31). The needle is swallowed whole and a pull on the line swings it crosswise, causing it to catch in the fish's stomach or gullet. Use the least appetising parts of animals and birds for bait. A white stone used for a sinker, or a bit of shiny metal or brightly coloured piece of material tied just above the hook will also attract fish.

**(a) Jigging** Fish may be caught by jigging for them. Let the hook, or a cluster of hooks attached below a "spoon" or shiny metal, down into deep water. Jerk it upward at arm's length, and let it sink back.

Fig. 33. Improved Fish-hooks

If you are fishing in deep water, be sure the hooks are weighted enough to carry the lure downwards quickly so that it suggests something alive.

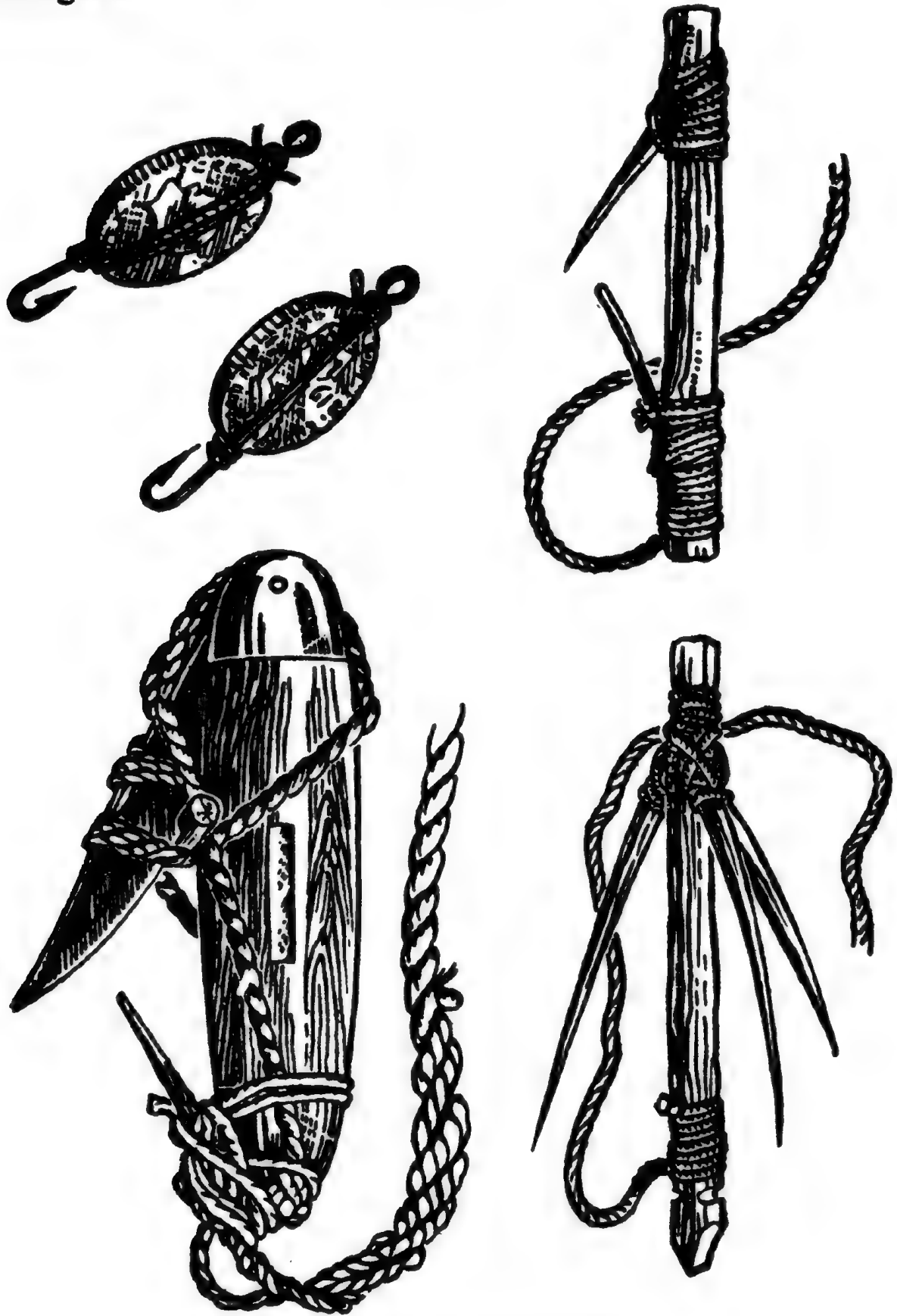


Fig. 33a. Improvised Fish-hooks

**81. Narrowing a Stream** To catch fish, a shallow stream may be narrowed by building an obstruction of stones or stakes out from both banks, leaving only a narrow channel through which the fish can swim. An improvized net is stretched across this channel; be sure to secure it firmly with stakes or boulders or you will loose both net and fish. If you have no net, you can stand ready to hit, spear, or trap, the fish as they swim past. Keep very still while you wait—fish dart away at the first sign of danger.

**82. Diverting a Stream** If you are certain that a small stream has fish in it, divert it and so strand fish in the pools in the stream below the diversion.

**83. Tidal Fish Trap** To strand fish when the tide goes out, pile up a crescent of boulders on the tidal flat. Scooping out the area inside the crescent is not essential, but increases the effectiveness of the trap.

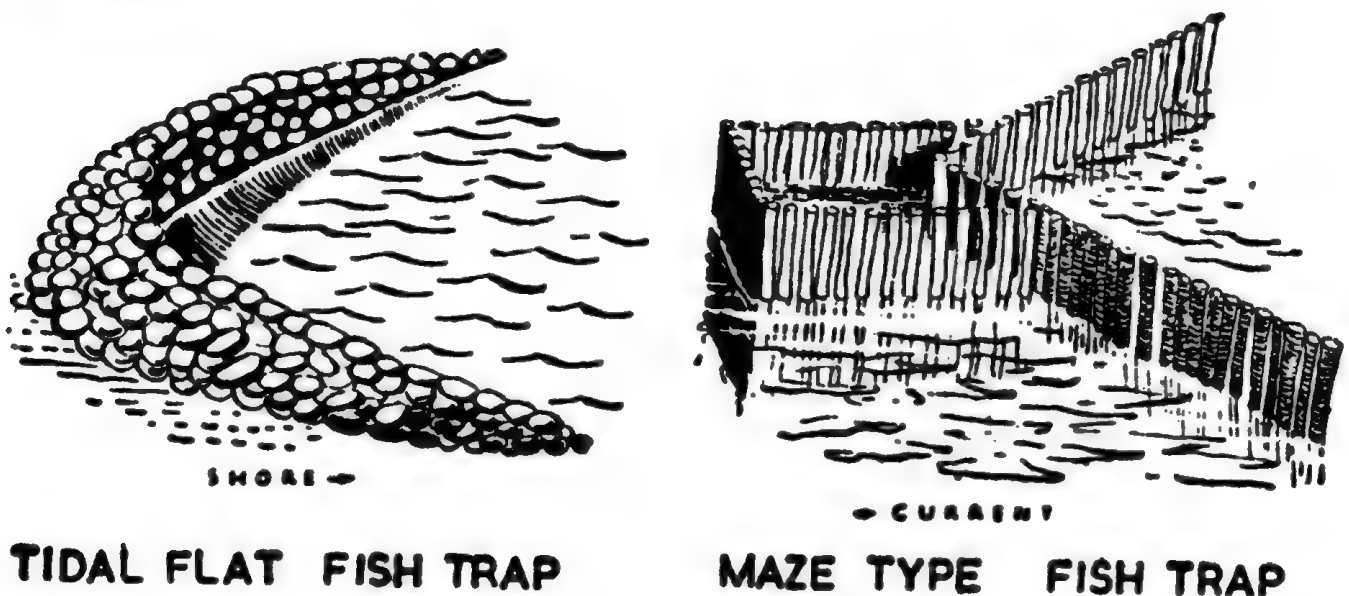


Fig. 34. Tidal Fish Traps

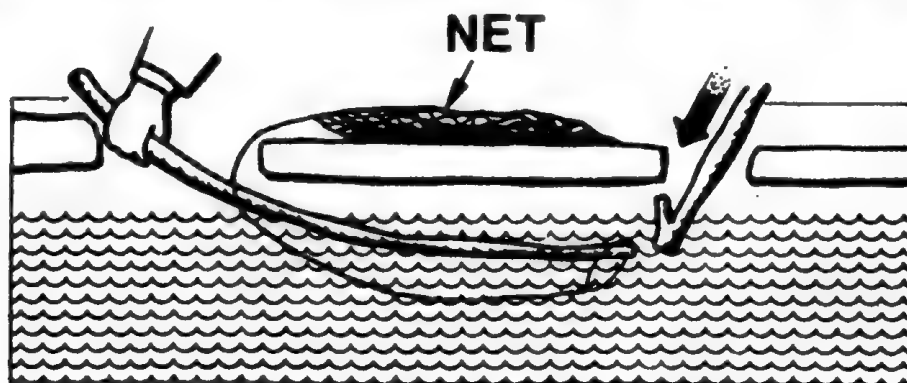
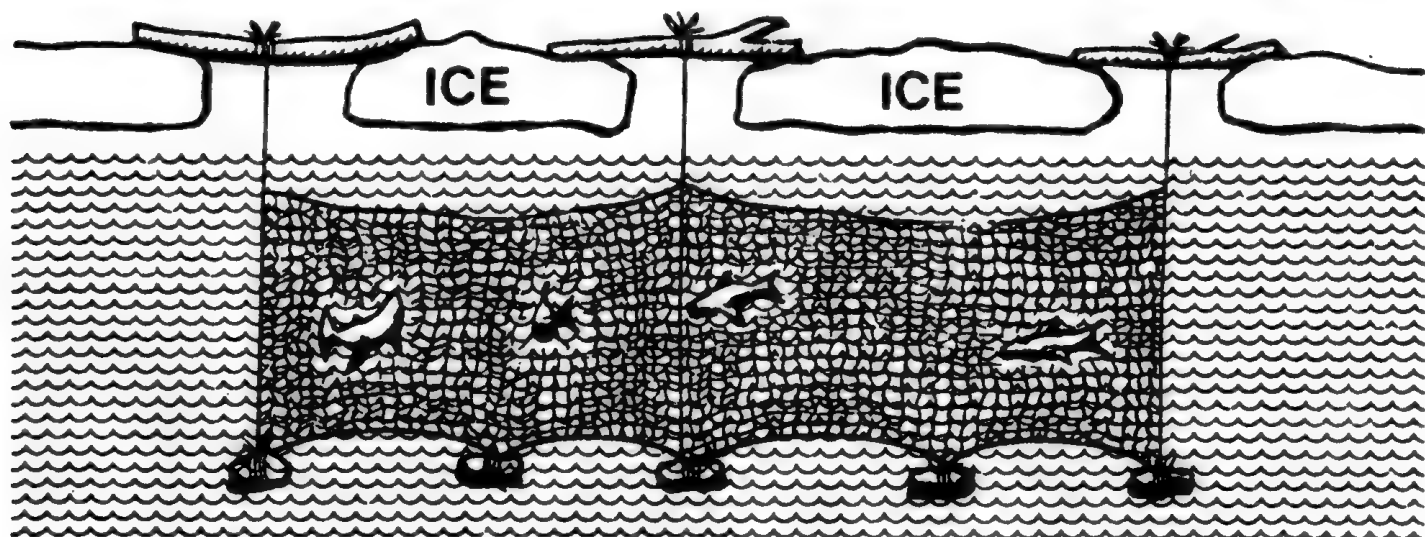
**84. White Fish Traps** If you come across a lagoon, select a spot about eight feet from it and two feet below water level. Dig a hole four feet in diameter, and join the hole to the lagoon with a trench about two feet wide, and deep enough to allow four inches of water to flow easily through the channel from the lagoon. Place a small log about three inches in diameter where the channel drops into the hole and fill the trench in behind it to smooth the



channel bed. Sit where the fish cannot see you and wait. Soon the fish will feel the current and, thinking that it will be taking them out to sea, allow it to carry them over the artificial falls into your pools.

**85. Fish in Tidal Pools** Tidal pools with masses of seaweed in them may seem to contain no fish, but you may find small fish among the seaweed near the surface and a few big ones deeper down. For the small fish you will need a scoop or net. For the big ones use a spear or fish catcher.

**86. Fishing through Ice** The main deterrent when attempting to fish through ice is thickness of the ice; it may be as much as 12 feet thick. Fishing with a hook and line through a hole in the ice requires no special technique, but setting a net beneath ice requires skill and patience. To set a net under ice, the float line may be fed under the ice by using a series of holes in the ice, one or two long poles, and a leader line tied to the float line. Fish get caught by entangling themselves in the mesh, therefore the net should be



Method of placing net under ice  
Fig. 35. Setting Net under ice

fairly loosely tied to the float line to allow some flexibility in the meshes. The net may be supported in the water by a combination of poles, floats, and ropes. Weights made of almost anything, should be tied on to the bottom line.

### **Plant Food**

87. Though plant food is not abundant in the Arctic, it is by no means absent. There are many varieties of berries, greens, roots, fungi, lichens, and seaweeds, which can be used as emergency food. In forested areas, food plants are most abundant in clearings, and long streams and seashores. On the tundra they are largest and most plentiful in wet places. Don't be discouraged by the bare appearance of northern vegetation: food is often hidden. Watch the feeding habits of animals, particularly birds; they will lead you to plants you might otherwise overlook. If you are on the march, gather food plants as you go along so that you will have enough for a meal by the time you make camp.

88. **Poisonous Plants** Generally speaking do not eat plants which taste bitter or have a milky sap. The following poisonous plants grow in the sub-Arctic forest; they do not normally grow north of the tree line:—



Fig. 36. Deathcup Aman  
—Poisonous

(a) *Mushrooms.* The common characteristics of the two species of poisonous mushrooms are that they have white gills and swollen or bulbous bases. The nutritive value of mushrooms is very small, and unless you are an expert they are best left well alone. There is a possibility that the very young of the deadly amanita mushrooms family may be mistaken for a puff ball. By cutting the ball in half you can make certain. If gills are found inside throw it away: no true puff balls have gills.

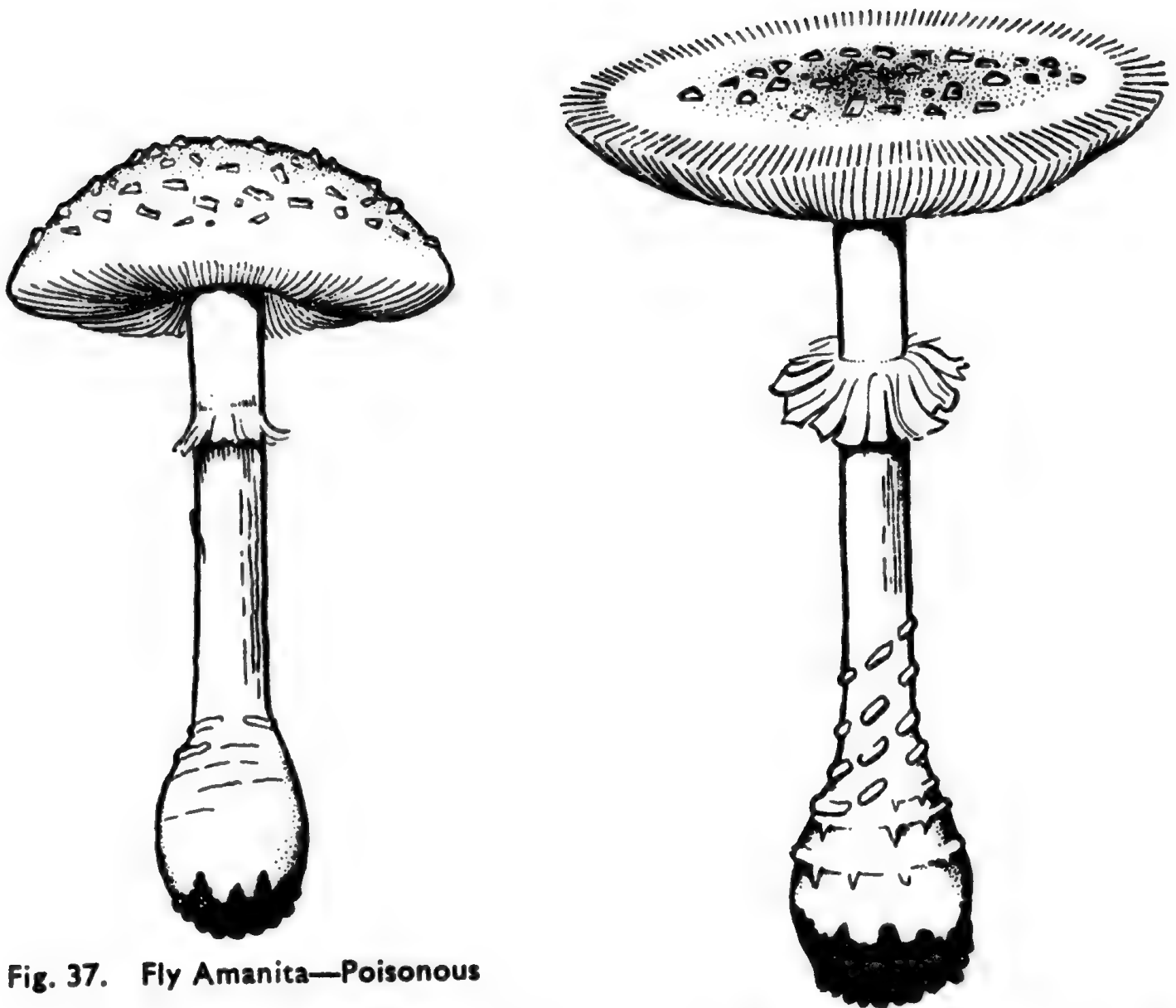


Fig. 37. Fly Amanita—Poisonous

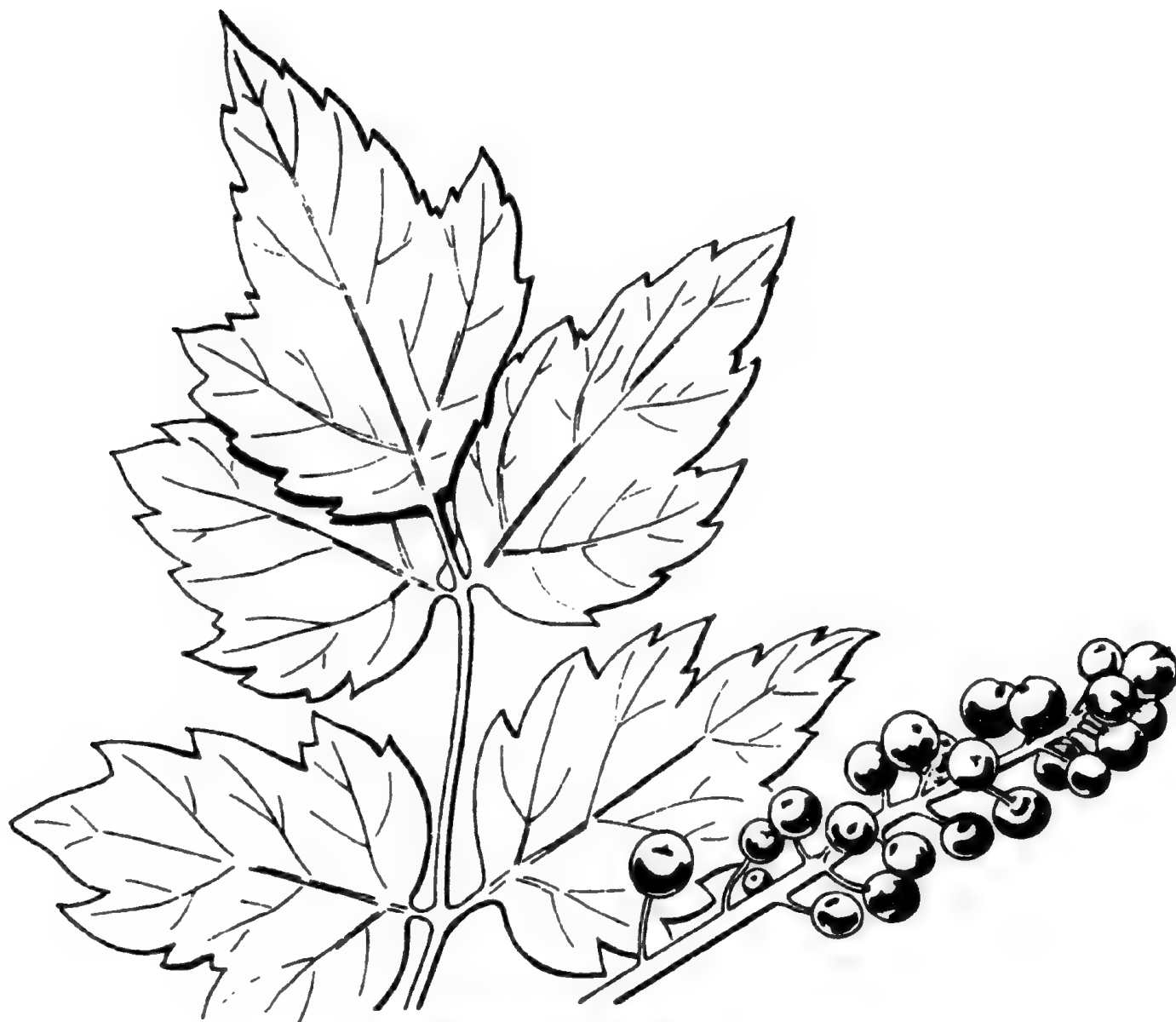
(b) *Water Hemlock*. The water hemlock grows in the wet soil of river valleys in forested areas. On an average the plant is four feet tall, but in favourable locations it grows to six to eight feet tall. The arrangement of the flowers is a conspicuous characteristic which enables you to recognize immediately the members of this family (the parsley or carrot family). The root is hollow and has cross partitions. The leaves are streaked with purple and when crushed emit a disagreeable odour. (Fig. 38.)

(c) *Baneberry* The berries are usually red or white but may turn blue as they get older. It can be distinguished from the edible blueberry by the fact that baneberry bushes carry their fruits in clusters and have big leaves made up of several parts; edible blueberries grow singly (Fig. 39.)

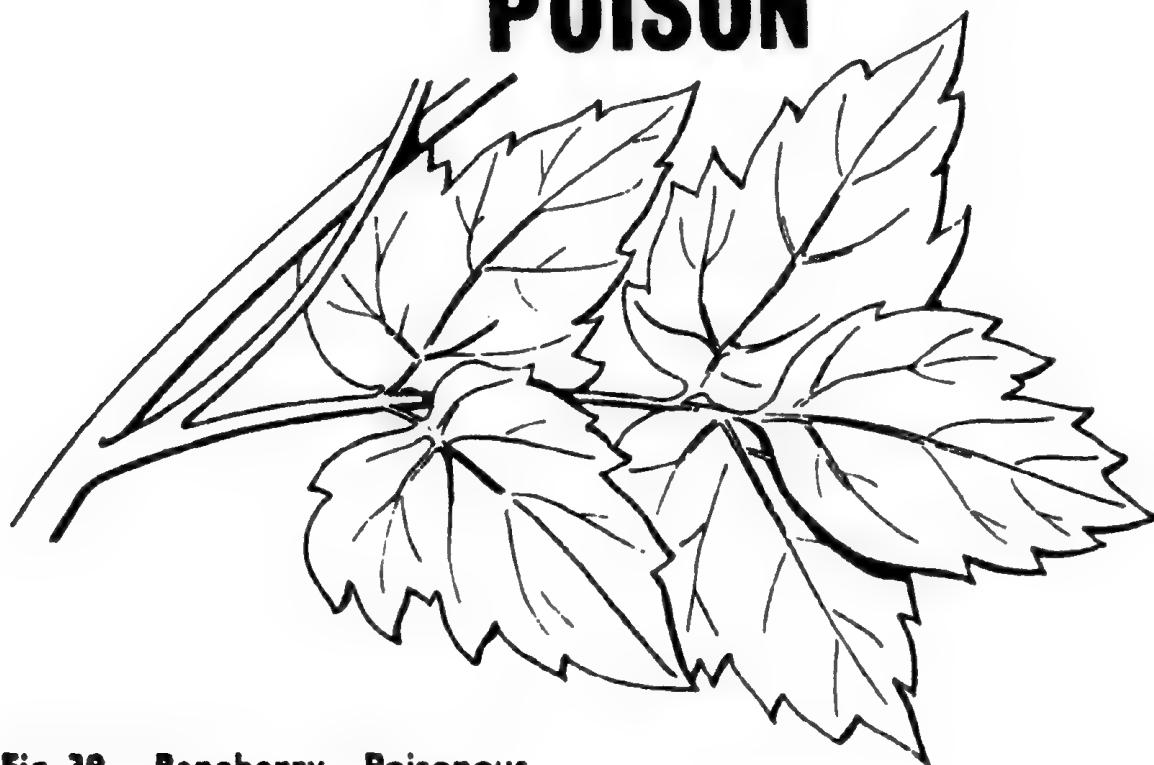


**Fig. 38. Water Hemlock—Poisonous**





**POISON**



**Fig. 39. Baneberry—Poisonous**

## **Cooking**

89. Whenever possible, cook your food before eating it. Meals should be prepared in sheltered places. Windbreaks and large stones should be used to protect the flame and reflect the heat. Hot embers provide the most heat.

90. Since fuel is usually scarce, it is advisable to cook by means of boiling, and if possible drink the cooking water. Boiling in water is the easiest and most satisfactory method of preparing fish and game under survival conditions. Boiling preserves the essential elements of the food. It is best to boil sea food in sea water; no additional salting is then required. Undercook rather than overcook; it saves vitamins and heat. Boil for two or three minutes only. Plant foods should be mixed with other foods in stews and soups. Lichens are most edible when soaked overnight, dried until brittle, crushed to a powder, and then boiled until they form a jelly. The jelly will make an excellent base for any soup or stew.

91. When a cooking pot is not available, in winter the food may be roasted or fried over a slow, non-smoking fire; in summer the food is best cooked by wrapping it in clay or mud and wet leaves, and baked in hot embers. When food is baked it should not be skinned or cleaned until it is cooked.

92. If no fire is available food becomes more palatable if dried or frozen. Before eating frozen food it should be brought to a temperature a few degrees below freezing since, when very cold the frozen food sticks to the lips and tongue. When carved or sliced into thin shavings, it is really palatable and does not appear raw.

## **Food Storage**

93. Your food supply—especially fresh meat—will attract thieving animals. Another problem is the alternate freezing and thawing which is bad for any food. It is not necessary to thaw before cooking. Frozen food may take a little longer to cook, but otherwise it is unaffected. In summer, your fish can be cut into strips and dried in the sun; meat and game should be kept in a cool place in the shade. Newly-killed meat or game should be tied in a parachute cloth to keep out flies which otherwise will lay eggs

on the meat. A hole dug in the shady side of an embankment, with a wet piece of heavy material hung over the entrance, will give a small degree of refrigeration. A hole dug in the ground similarly covered will also make a good refrigerator. On the tundra a common method of storing food is to place it beneath a pile of boulders. If boulders are not available bury your food in the snow, and mark the spot. In timbered country, if it becomes necessary for every one to be away from the camp (one man should be left to operate the emergency signals) don't leave the food where animals can reach it. Tie it in a bundle and hang it from a tree at least six feet from the ground and a foot or two from the branches.

## **WATER**

94. Your water supply will be limited only by the amount of heat available for melting snow and ice. In an effort to save fuel men deprive themselves of drinking water. Inefficiency, exhaustion and dehydration may occur through lack of water, even in the Arctic. Drink if possible two pints of water daily. The water lost through the sweat glands, and in the form of urine, must be replaced. The amount of water lost in the form of sweat, and therefore your requirements, can be limited by regulating your rate of work and removing some of your clothing whenever you begin to feel warm.

95. In summer, water can be obtained from streams, lakes, or ponds. On the tundra, pond water may be brown because of stain from grass roots and other plants, but it is fit to drink.

96. In winter, your water supply is most easily obtained from lakes under the ice and snow. The lower surface of the ice follows the contours of the top surface of the snow; dig where the snow is deepest and then chip through the ice under this to find the least cold water. Melt ice rather than snow for water; you will get more water for volume and it takes less time and heat. The deeper layers of snow are more granular and give a better yield of water than the soft upper snow. When melting snow, place a small amount in the pot at first, adding more as it melts. If you fill the pot with snow, the first water will be soaked up by the absorbent snow above it, leaving a cavity directly over the heated bottom of the pot and the pot will burn.

97. At sea you can obtain good drinking water from old sea ice. Ice a year old rarely has any noticeable saltiness, while ice two or three years old is generally fresher than the average river or spring water. Old sea ice can be distinguished from the current year's ice by its rounded corners and bluish colour, in contrast to the rougher sea ice which has a milky grey colour. In summer, drinking water can be obtained from pools in the old sea ice. Avoid pools near the edge of the floe where salt water may have blown in.

98. **Purification of Water** If there is any doubt as to the quality of the water you intend to drink or cook with, it should be purified by one of the following methods:—

(a) *Halazone Tablets.* Crunch and dissolve one halazone tablet in each pint of water. Shake well and allow to stand for half-an-hour. If this is insufficient to produce a distinct smell of chlorine, add more halazone until the odour is present.

(b) *Boiling.* Boil the water for at least three minutes and allow any sediment to settle before using.

## HEALTH HAZARDS

### Hypothermia

99. Hypothermia is the condition existing when the body temperature is below normal. Low temperature, winds, and dampness, supplement each other in depleting the body's heat resources to produce a sub-normal temperature. Hypothermia may be recognised by decreasing resistance to cold, excessive shivering, and low vitality.

100. The treatment consists of returning the body temperature to normal. The patient should be put in his sleeping bag, or a bed improvised from a parachute canopy, the buttocks, shoulders, and feet, being well insulated. The patient should be warmed by placing heated rocks, wrapped in some material, near the various parts of the body. If the number of heating units is limited place them

as far as they will go in this order: pit of the stomach, small of the back, armpits, back of the neck, wrists, and between the thighs. Stimulation with hot drinks will also help if the patient is conscious. Avoid the use of alcohol; it opens the blood vessels at the surface of the skin allowing heat to be lost more rapidly. A victim of hypothermia is not cured when his body temperature returns to normal. Build up his reserves of body heat. To prevent hypothermia take all possible measures to conserve body heat.

## **Frostbite**

**101. Areas Most Affected** Frostbite affects particularly the exposed parts of the body and regions which are farthest from the heart and have the least circulation, *i.e.* the face, nose, ears, hands, and feet.

**102. Prevention** To avoid frostbite remember these precautions:—

(a) Keep wrinkling your face to make sure that stiff patches have not formed. Watch your hands.

(b) Watch each other's faces and ears for signs of frostbite.

(c) Don't handle cold metal with bare hands.

(d) Avoid tight clothing which will reduce circulation and increase the risk of frostbite.

(e) Avoid exposure in high winds.

(f) Avoid spilling petrol on bare flesh. Petrol-splashed flesh in sub-zero temperatures will freeze almost at once.

(g) Do not go out of your shelter, even for short periods, without adequate clothing.

(h) Take special care if you are unfit or fatigued; the risk then increases.

(j) Don't let your clothing become wet from sweat or water. If it does, dry it promptly.



### 103. Symptoms

(a) Frostbite first appears as a small patch of white or cream-coloured frozen skin, which is firm to the touch, and feels stiff. Frostbite can be felt by making faces and moving all the skin on the face and forehead. The subject may feel a slight



Fig. 40. Making Faces to Prevent Frostbite

pricking sensation as the skin freezes, or may not notice it at all. If treatment is given at this stage the consequences will not be serious; but if the process goes further, the deeper tissues of muscle and bone are frozen, the blood vessels become clotted, and so much tissue may be destroyed that part of limb, an ear, or a nose, may be lost.

(b) If the frostbite is quite mild when the area is warmed up, there will be some swelling and redness of the skin with a little pain and, as the condition heals, the skin may scale off.

(c) If the bite is deeper and more serious, swelling and pain are marked and blisters form. These may become infected, forming ulcers, and in the worst case the tissues become grey, then black and dead. Such tissues will fall off eventually.

**104. Treatment** Careful and immediate attention must be given.

(a) Very slight cases may be treated by simply getting out of the wind. A small area may be warmed by placing a bare hand over it, covering the outside of the hand with its mitt. The woollen pads on the backs of the mitts may provide enough warmth in some cases.

(b) Frostbitten hands should be thrust inside your clothing against your body.

(c) Frostbitten feet should be thrust inside a companion's clothing if you are out in the open.

(d) Keep the part covered with dry clothing until you reach shelter.

(e) Never rub frostbite with snow.

(f) In more serious cases the patient will almost certainly require treatment for exposure. Get him to shelter or build a shelter round him.

(g) If blisters appear, do not burst them. Dust them with an antiseptic powder.

(h) Cover the frostbitten parts lightly with surgical dressings, or clean soft clothes. Wrap up the parts loosely.

(i) Never rub a frostbitten area.

(k) Never warm up frostbite quickly by holding before the fire or dipping into hot water, or by any other means. Use "animal" warmth only.

(l) If there is severe pain give morphia if available. Very severe pain is usually an indication that frostbitten parts have been made too hot and further damage is occurring.

(m) Keep the damaged areas at rest.

### **Snow Blindness**

**105.** Snow blindness is a temporary form of blindness caused by the high intensity and concentration of the sun's rays, both direct and reflected from the snow-covered ground or ice and ice crystals in the clouds. However, snow blindness may occur during a bright overcast when there is no direct light, but a bright general haze from all directions. It occurs most frequently when the sun is high, particularly in areas which do not lose their snow cover.

**106. Symptoms** First the eyes become sensitive to the glare, then blinking and squinting occurs. Next the landscape takes on a pinkish tinge and the eyes begin to water. Blinking and watering become more intense and the vision becomes redder, until a sensation similar to that of sand in the eyes is noticed. If the exposure is continued the sensation becomes more violent until the vision is blanked out completely by a flaming red curtain. It is impossible to open the eyes or black the red vision. There is intense pain which may last three or four days.

**107. Treatment** The treatment consists of getting the person into a dark place. If there is no dark place available a blindfold may be used. The pain is aggravated by heat and may be relieved by the application of a cool wet compress. Time is the only cure.

**108. Prevention** The wearing of the standard goggles in the personal survival kit is recommended. If for some reason you have no goggles, some kind of goggles can be made from wood, bark, cloth or paper; do not use metal. Blackening the skin round the eyes will cut down the number of rays entering the eyes.



**Fig. 41. Protection against Snow blindness**

## **Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

109. All forms of fires and stoves are liable to give off carbon monoxide gas, and are therefore a potential danger in shelters unless ventilation is adequate (see para. 70). Poisoning by these fumes is common in severe cold conditions because of the very natural tendency to batten down closely. The gas is colourless and odourless.

110. The effects of breathing the gas are insidious. There may be slight headache, dizziness, drowsiness, nausea, and perhaps vomiting, but usually these symptoms are very mild and may pass unnoticed, and the subject becomes unconscious without any warning. Unless discovered promptly the subject will die as the effects of the gas increase.

111. The treatment is simple. Remove the patient to a well-ventilated place and encourage him to breath evenly and regularly. If he is unconscious and breathing shallowly, apply artificial respiration. Administer oxygen if available. When he is conscious keep him warm and at rest and give hot drinks. Do not allow him to exert himself until he is fully recovered.

## **Personal Hygiene**

112. Strict attention must be paid to personal cleanliness to prevent skin and intestinal infections which are associated with neglect of personal hygiene.

(a) Hair and beards should be trimmed as short as possible. Frost accumulates readily on beards and can only be removed by thawing.

(b) Winter survival is not conducive to bathing; however, it is still necessary to remove accumulated body oils and perspiration from the skin. Under severe conditions a dry rub-down is all that is possible; otherwise wash the body with a damp rag.

(c) The teeth and mouth should be cleaned daily. Feathers make a good toothpick and several tied together make a reasonable toothbrush. A piece of cloth can also be used.

(d) Attend promptly to any tender skin, particularly on the feet. It may prevent real trouble later on.

## **Camp Hygiene**

**113.** Use a little commonsense when arranging your camp site. Site your lavatory to the leeward of the camp, well away from your shelter and water supply. Clean the camp site regularly, and above all do not contaminate your water supply.

## **General Health**

**114.** Conserve your energy. Do not rush around aimlessly. Avoid fatigue. Get plenty of sleep. If you cannot sleep, just lie down and relax your body and mind. You will not freeze to death when you sleep unless you are utterly exhausted. If you are doing hard work remove excess clothing before you get hot, and rest as soon as you begin to feel hot, at least for five minutes in every thirty.

## **CLOTHING PRECAUTIONS**

**115.** It has been previously been stated that your clothing is your first line of defence in Arctic survival, and it follows that care of the clothing is most important. The following points should be particularly observed.

**116. Regulation and Ventilation** Strange as it may seem, one of the chief causes of freezing to death arises from having become overheated in the first place. Excess body vapour will condense and in extreme cases will freeze. This has two effects: the moisture will destroy the insulating qualities of the underclothing, and the water vapour, being a good conductor of heat, will draw heat from the body. Constantly regulate your clothing so that you do not become hot enough to sweat. This is a considerable nuisance, but absolutely necessary. Slacken off all draw cords, open up the clothing at the neck, and loosen belts to allow ventilation. When necessary, remove enough layers of clothing to keep cool, whether you are indoors or travelling, or working outdoors. Replace the clothing as soon as you start to cool off.

**117. Repairs** Immediately mend tears and holes, particularly in outer garments which must be windproof.



**118. Drying Out** Dry your garments as soon as possible if they have become wet. Clothing should be hung high up in shelters to dry, as the warmest air is high up. In emergency, clothing can be dried by body heat, by putting it under your outer clothing or inside your sleeping bag. Mukluks and bouchérons should be dried in the open by sublimation, that is, allowing the perspiration to condense and then freeze. The frozen perspiration can then be brushed out.

**119. Fluffing Out** Compression reduces the fluffiness of a material and hence the volume of insulating air it can obtain. Socks must be turned frequently and fluffed out to prevent matting. Insoles should be changed from foot to foot to prevent them always being compressed in the same spot. All other woollen garments should be fluffed out regularly.

**120. Spares for Changing** If possible carry extra dry clothing for changing, particularly socks. Several layers of the parachute canopy wrapped round your feet are better than wet socks. Dry grass stuffed between the layers provides useful insulation.

**121. Frost Removal** Remove snow and hoar frost from clothing by beating, shaking and scraping, before entering a warmer atmosphere. Willow canes or a whisk made of spruce tips can be used for this purpose. Snow or frost does not wet clothing unless it is melted by warmth, so if you cannot remove the snow it is better to leave the outer garments where it is cold, so that the snow will not melt.

**122. Snow Contact** Don't sit down directly on the snow. Your body heat will melt it and your clothing will become wet. Always sit on surplus clothing, a log, or some piece of equipment. Don't put your hands with snow-covered gloves into your pockets. Shake off the snow first.

**123. Tightness of Clothing** Avoid tight clothing, particularly tight footgear and handwear. Don't try to cram too many pairs of socks into your footwear, because a tight fit is as bad as, if not worse than, insufficient covering.

**124. Cleanliness** Keep all your clothing as clean as possible. Dirty, matted clothing is less warm. The dirt will fill the space normally occupied by the insulating air.

**125. Gloves** Don't lose your gloves or mittens. Secure them, by the loops provided, with a neck string.

**126. Tacking Chances** Don't take chances about clothing. Unprotected fingers and ears can be frostbitten in a few minutes.

**127. Sleeping Bags** Never get into your sleeping bag wearing wet clothing. Sleep in the minimum clothing required for warmth; naked if possible. Turn the bag inside out in the morning and dry it before a fire or by sublimation. When it is dry, reassemble it and roll it up tightly until it is needed again. Don't sleep with your head in the bag, otherwise moist exhaled air will enter the bag. Sleep with your head in the aperture, and cover your face with your necksquare folded up to at least four thicknesses.

## **128. Clothing Hints**

(a) When walking in deep snow, wear your trousers outside your footwear and secure the bottoms of the legs with the draw cords.

(b) If you are unfortunate enough to fall into water, immediately roll yourself in the snow. The snow will act as a blotter and soak up the water. The violent exercise will generate body heat and will also knock off any unsaturated snow. If possible wring out underclothing, but let the outer clothing freeze to maintain and protect body heat.

(c) Never take off boots filled with water until you are in some form of shelter. As long as water remains liquid there is no danger of frostbite. Walking generates enough heat to prevent solidification for a considerable time even at very low temperatures.

(d) Footwear can be made temporarily waterproof by dipping them, while on the feet, into water, until a film of ice is formed on the outside. The footwear will not let in water until the ice has melted. Coating with ice is an extreme emergency procedure and should never be used if there are other alternatives.

## INSECTS

129. From mid-June to mid-September, when the first heavy frosts come, your worst enemies are the insects. During this period, there are ten times as many mosquitos per square mile over two-thirds of the land north of the tree line than in the tropics. Hence the provision of the head net and insect repellant cream in your personal survival kit.

130. There are four insect families: mosquitos, black flies, deer flies, and midges. They do not resemble each other in general appearance, but they are alike in several significant ways:

- (a) They all bite, that is, they do not sting.
- (b) They do not generally carry disease.
- (c) They are primarily daytime insects.
- (d) If it turns cold, they become inactive, even when they are abundant.
- (e) Only the females bite.
- (f) During their larval stage they live in water.

### Types

131. (a) *Mosquitos*. Mosquitos need no description; they are universal pests.

(b) *Black Flies*. Sometimes known as sandflies or buffalo gnats. Their bites stay open and will continue to bleed for some time; the bite causes severe swelling. They attack especially at the collar line, and, if they get inside the clothing, at the waist line.

(c) *Deer Flies*. These large pests are also known as gadflies. Other flies in the same family are mooseflies; these are larger still and are also called horseflies or bulldogs. The last name is particularly apt in view of their tenacity and the size of the hole they drill in the skin. Their bite is like the cut of a scalpel, drawing blood in a trickle.

(d) *Midges*. These are minute flies about one twenty-fifth of an inch long; also known as no-see-ums, pinkies, and gnats. They are persistent blood suckers and cause a sharp burning pain out of all proportion to their size.

## **Protection**

**132. Clothing** Wear two thicknesses of light clothing: mosquitos bite through one layer but rarely through two. Tuck your trouser legs in your boots and your sleeves in your gloves. Whenever you can, cover bare flesh with clothing.

**133. Headnets** Make sure your headnet is well tucked in to the collar of the shirt.

**134. Insect Repellant** Apply to the face and exposed skin every four hours. Apply to the face even when wearing a headnet; midges are small enough to penetrate the mesh.

**135. Smudge Fires** Any green wood or green leaves will produce an insect repelling smoke.

**136. Parachute Canopies** In summer, the aircraft may be used as a shelter and can be made insect proof with parachute canopies.

## **TRAVEL**

**137.** The experience of Arctic crashes reveals that the best policy for survivors is to stay with the crashed aircraft and await rescue. Travel to a camp site should be undertaken, however, if the scene of the crash is endangered by natural hazards, such as crevasses and avalanches. There may be times when walking home is considered to be the only solution.

## **Considerations**

**138. Your Position** Have you been able to fix your position? Quite often the reason for crash landing is that the aircraft is lost. An approximate position, say within 50 miles, is worthwhile for the purpose of narrowing the search by air. But it is not accurate enough to use as a departure point in an attempt to walk out. You must know the exact location of your camp and your objective.

**139. Wireless Contact** Is the search organization aware of your plight and your position? Was your distress message acknowledged? Have you made wireless contact since the crash?

**140. Physical Condition** Even with snow shoes and skis, Arctic travel is slow, strenuous and hazardous. Don't overestimate your physical capabilities.

**141. Weather** The weather should be assessed from two angles. Is the prevailing weather likely to hinder search forces? Is the weather conducive to an Arctic route-march and sleep in temporary shelters?

**142. Orientation** You must have reliable methods of determining and maintaining your intended route. In the barren lands particularly, you must have a compass. Should you lose your compass the following methods may be used to determine direction:—

(a) *Sky Map.* A high uniform overcast reflects the surrounding terrain. Clouds over open water, timber, or snow-free ground will appear black, while clouds over sea ice or uniform snow covering will appear white. Pack ice or drifted snow are indicated by a mottled appearance on the surface of the cloud. New ice is indicated by greyish patches on the sky map. A careful study of the earth's reflection on the clouds may be used for determining the proper direction to travel.

(b) *Bird Habits.* Migrating waterfowl fly towards the land in the thaw. Most sea birds fly out to sea in the morning and return to land at night.

(c) *Vegetation.* Although there are few trees on the tundra, the moss theory still applies; moss is heaviest on the north side. The bark of the alders is lighter in colour on the south side than on the north side. Don't rely on one observation; make several and average the direction. Lichens on rocks are most numerous on the south side where they receive the greatest warmth of the sun.

(d) *Stars.* In the northern hemisphere, true north can be ascertained from the constellation of the Great Bear, which points to Polaris (North Star), the star over the North Pole. Trying to estimate your latitude by measuring the angle of Polaris above the horizon will give you only a very approximate



result, unless you have a sextant and tables. In the southern hemisphere, the Southern Cross indicates the direction of south. Other constellations, such as Orion, rise in the east and set in the west, moving to the south of you when you are north of the equator and vice versa.

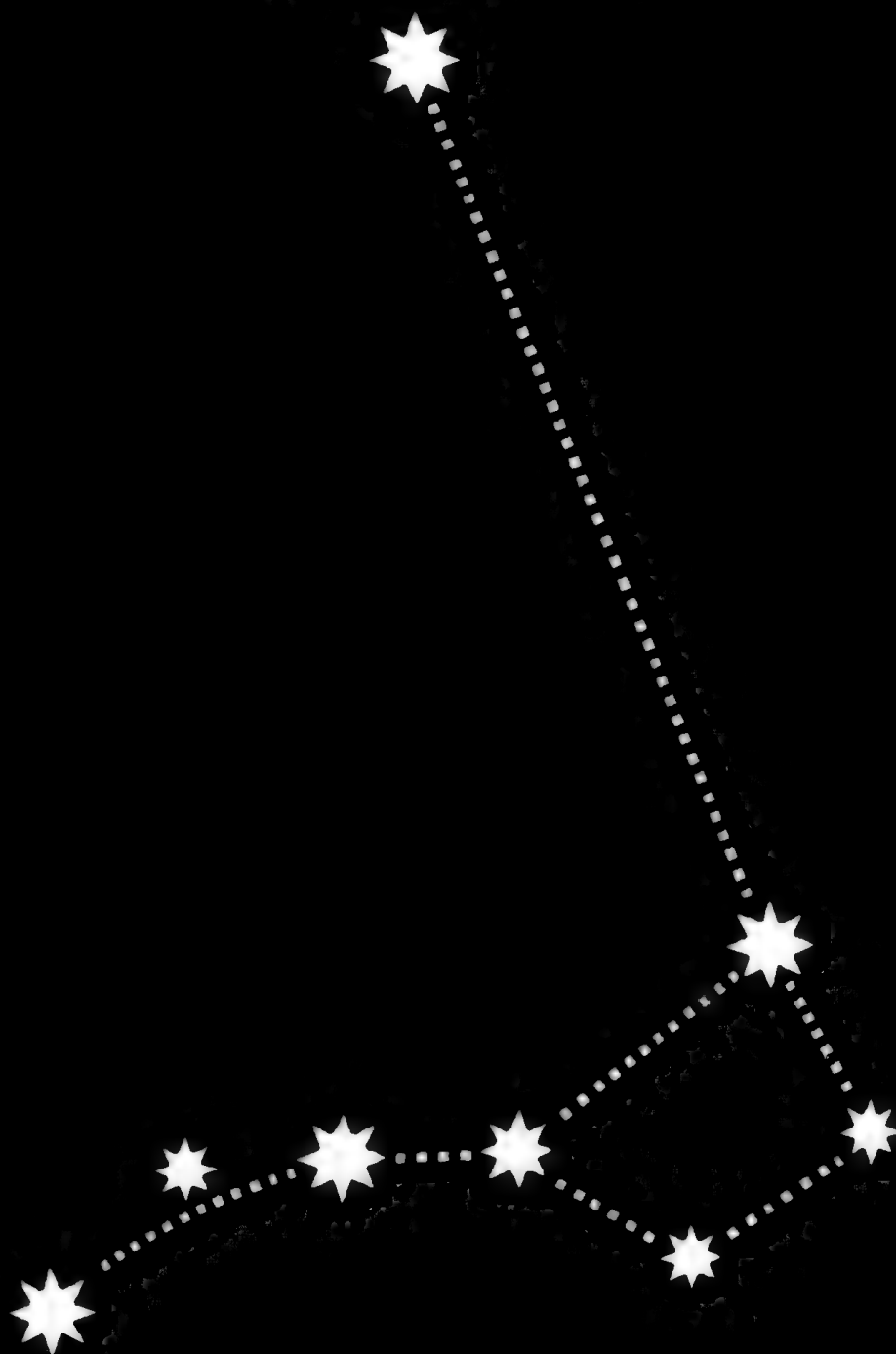
(e) *Sun*. If you have the correct local time on your watch, the shadow cast by an object at 1200 hours will indicate north and south. The object must be perpendicular to the ground and straight. In the northern hemisphere the base of the shadow will indicate south and the tip will indicate north. If you have no watch, place a straight object in the ground or snow on a level spot. Starting in the morning, and, continuing about once every hour throughout the day, mark the point at the tip of the shadow. At the end of the day, connect these points and you will have a line which runs true east and west. The shortest distance between the base of the shadow and the east-west line will indicate north and south. The method of determining direction by pointing the hour hand of a watch at the sun is considered inaccurate and should not be used.

**143. Final Decision** A crashed aircraft with a prominent signals area is more likely to be spotted from the air than a man on the march with limited signalling devices. Your final decision should be based on two factors: your nearness to civilization and the probability of rescue. Once you have made your decision, stick to it. The decision will have been reached after considering all the factors when your minds were fresh. As time goes on, your powers of reasoning will deteriorate and there may be a tendency to consider the factors individually instead of collectively. However, if it is at all possible, or if you are in doubt, *stay with the aircraft*.

## **Routes**

**144.** The majority of the settlements are to be found on the rivers or on the coast. Water is the highway of the north. Dog teams and sledge trains travel on the ice in the winter. In addition, food and fuel are available along the waterways both in summer and winter. Travel downstream to reach civilization, except in Siberia where the rivers flow north.

NORTH STAR



GREAT BEAR

Fig. 42. Great Bear and North Star

SOUTHERN CROSS

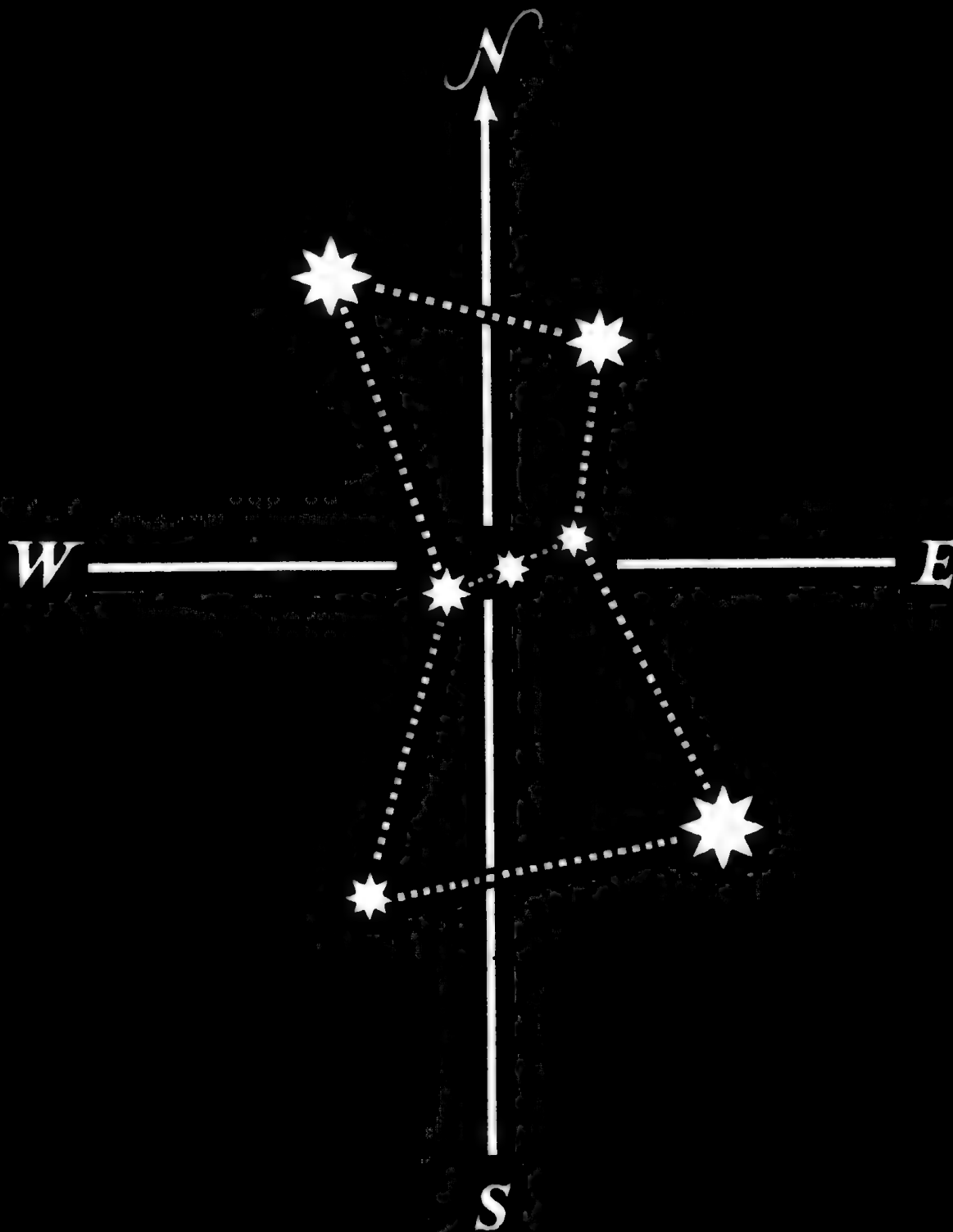


FALSE CROSS

S

SOUTHERN CROSS

Fig. 43. Southern Cross



**ORION**

Fig. 44. Orion

**145. Mountain Routes** Mountain routes, where ice caps, glaciers, crevasses, and avalanches may be encountered, are extremely hazardous and should be used only if there is no alternative. The minimum requirements are a climbing rope, two ice axes, and an experienced leader. If any one of these is not available select another route. In areas where avalanches are prevalent, travel in the early morning when it is coldest. At all times proceed with extreme caution.

**146. Timber Country** Snow lies deep in the timber country and travel is extremely difficult without snowshoes or skis. Two miles a day in these circumstances is good progress. Trail breaking is very strenuous, and it should be taken in turns for periods of not more than five minutes. Rest for five minutes about every half-an-hour. When possible travel by the rivers. Make a raft or use your dinghy in the summer, and travel on foot over the ice in winter. When travelling on river ice keep on the inside of the bends; the swifter current on the outside of the bends wears the ice away from below. At river junctions walk on the far side, or take to the land until you are well downstream from the junction. When river travel is not feasible, travel along ridges. In winter the snow does not lie deep on the ridges; in summer the ridges are drier and firmer under foot.

**147. Barren Land Routes** Barren land travel without snowshoes or skis is difficult and slow. You cannot afford to follow the rivers, which wind and twist and greatly increase the distance to be covered. Beware of thin ice on the edges of tundra lakes and in the connecting channels. Lack of landmarks, blowing snow and fog, emphasize the need of a compass for barren land travel. If your tracks are clear, check your course by taking back bearings of your tracks; otherwise proceed in single file about 30 paces apart. The last man carries the compass and, using the middle men as sighting objects, controls the course of the first man by calling out instructions to him. Constant compass check will ensure that you are travelling in a straight line, which is the shortest distance. Summer travel in the barren lands presents another problem. Soggy vegetation and bogs make the going slippery and heavy. Tundra lakes, quicksands, and swamps must be avoided. In these circumstances it is usually preferable to float down a river than to travel across country.



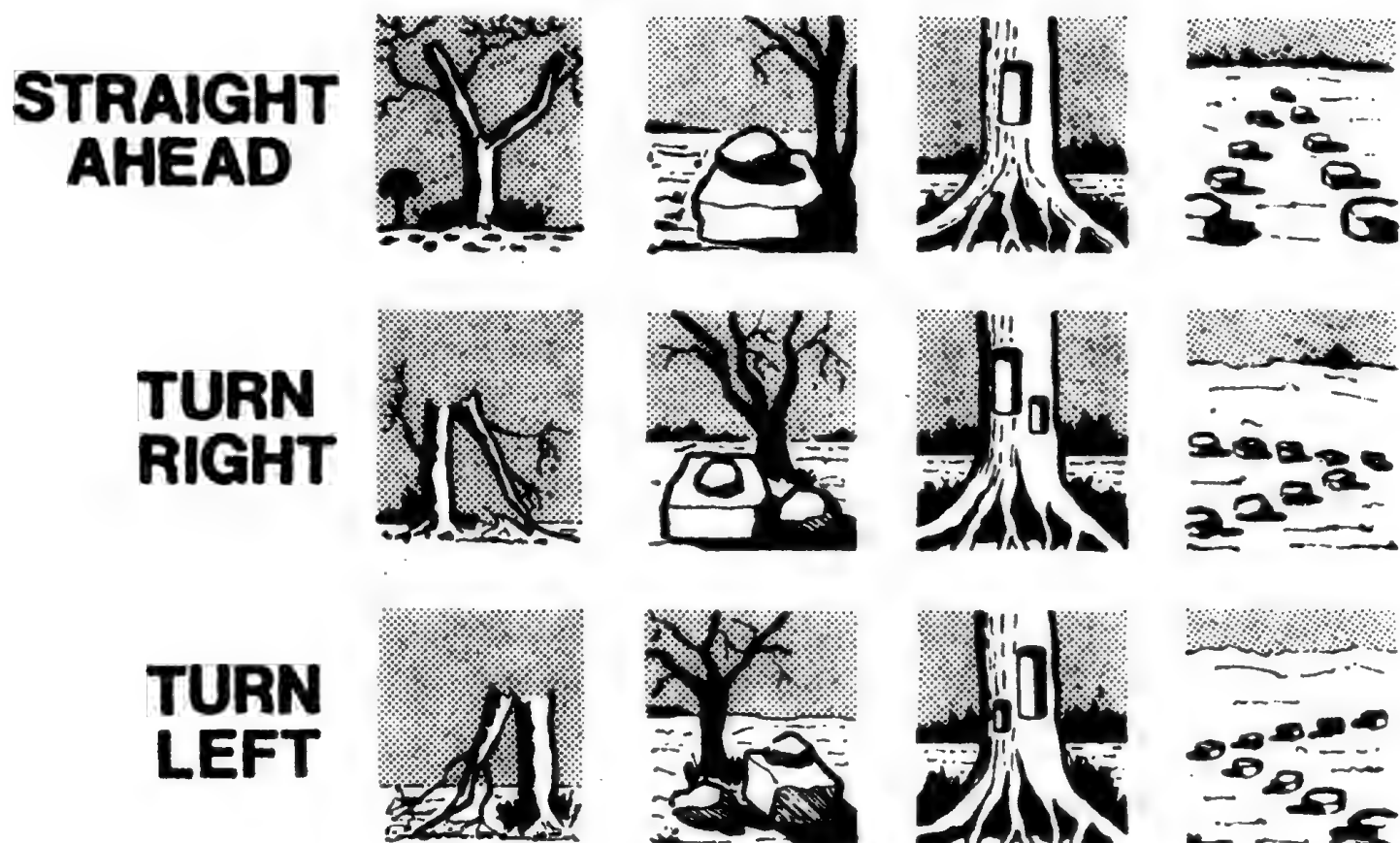
**148. Sea Ice Routes** On sea ice travel in one party; there is nothing to be gained by anyone who remains behind. The problems of coursekeeping are identical with those on the barren lands, but the movement of ice floes makes it difficult to determine your actual track. Pressure ridges and hummocks may be used as landmarks over short distances only, since they are constantly moving. The unreliability of the magnetic compass in high latitudes necessitates course checks on the sun and stars. Avoid tall, pinnacled icebergs which are liable to capsize. For shelter at sea, look for low, flat-topped icebergs.

**149. Trail Equipment** The amount of equipment you can take on the trail will depend on what you can carry, or haul on improvised sledges. Individual packs, adapted from the personal survival packs, should be worn high up on the shoulders and should not exceed a weight of 35 pounds. Avoid carrying whenever possible; float down the rivers in summer and haul a sledge in winter. Sledges can be made from cowlings, doors, pieces of fuselage, or timber. A single tow line attached to a bridle, with individual shoulder loops tied in, is preferable for travel over snow. Only one trail need necessarily be broken. Over ice, it is better to have several towlines attached to the bridle, since they enable each man to choose his own footholds. It may be necessary to leave behind many useful articles. Basically you will require food, shelter, and fuel, or means of obtaining them. The value of each piece of equipment must be carefully considered. For instance, a fuel stove is superfluous in timber country, but is an absolute necessity on sea ice. Always carry spare clothes and a sleeping bag. Travel is difficult over any terrain without snowshoes or skis. Short wide skis are best; they should be about three feet long and eight inches wide. They can be made of metal or timber. Snowshoes, which are simply load-spreaders, can be made of metal tubing, spruce, or willow. Finer limbs can be woven in and secured with shroud lines.

**150. Preparation** While the advice to all survivors is "*Stay with the aircraft*", the possibility of the necessity for travel should be recognized at the beginning of the survival period. Items of equipment such as snowshoes, skis, and sledges, should be made and tested before setting out on the trail. Indeed, they will be very useful around the camp site for collecting fuel and foraging for food.

**151. Blaze your Trail** If the entire survival party is going to walk out, or if a small group is setting out to get help, messages stating the intended route should be left at the base camp. In the Arctic communication is very slow, and the more signs of your presence left along the trail the greater is your chance of being found. Mark your trail clearly. Strange trails are nearly always followed by trappers and Eskimos. On the trail make your camp well before nightfall; leave plenty of time to build your shelter, prepare emergency signals, and have a hot meal. The following morning, all signals, particularly snow writing, should be changed to large arrows showing the direction the party has taken.

**152.** Finally, it must again be strongly emphasized that if you are in any doubt at all stay with the aircraft.



**Fig. 45. Trail Blazing**



The background of the entire cover is a detailed illustration of a jungle. It features various types of trees, including tall palm trees and dense foliage. The color palette is primarily green, with different shades representing various plants and the forest floor. The style is reminiscent of mid-20th-century military manuals or adventure magazines.

RESTRICTED

# JUNGLE

# SURVIVAL

AIR MINISTRY PAMPHLET 214

RESTRICTED

J U N G L E

SURVIVAL

A. M. PAMPHLET 214

ISSUED BY  
THE AIR MINISTRY (A.D. RESCUE)

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# RESTRICTED

## JUNGLE SURVIVAL

### INTRODUCTION

1. There is no standard form of jungle and the word implies either wet tropical rain forest, which is the jungle we usually think about, or dry open scrub country ; it refers to any natural uncultivated forest in tropical or sub-tropical lands.

2. Jungle is not constant in composition even in the same climatic zones. Its vegetation depends on the altitude, and, to a large extent, on the influence of man through the centuries. Tropical trees take over 100 years to reach maturity and are only fully grown in untouched primeval virgin forest. This is called "primary" jungle and is easily recognized by its abundance of giant trees 150 feet to 200 feet high and up to 10 feet in width at the base. The tops of the trees form a dense carpet over 100 feet from the ground beneath which there is little light and therefore comparatively little undergrowth : consequently travel is not too difficult in most primary jungle and its animal inhabitants live mainly in the upper branches.

3. Jungle is not all primary. Far eastern hill tribesmen grow one rice crop a year by burning down a suitable area of jungle and planting seed in the ashes which form a natural fertiliser. When the harvest is gathered the tribe moves on to find a fresh jungle area to be burned for next year's crop. In this way one tribe will devastate large areas of primary jungle in a decade. European exploitation has added to the cleared area by felling accessible tall timber along river banks. The cleared area is soon reclaimed by the jungle, but by jungle without tall trees and composed of dense undergrowth and creepers. This is "secondary" jungle and it is much harder to traverse than primary jungle, but it is better for forced landing or parachute descent because of the absence of giant trees.

4. In most far eastern countries, the secondary jungle is greater in extent than the untouched primary jungle. The latter is now found only in the most inaccessible mountainous country or in



areas of forest reserve, preserved by colonial governments for water catchment or other reasons. Don't, however, believe that all the tropics consist of jungle of any sort. Well over half the land is cultivated in some way or other and you will find rubber plantations, tea plantations, coconut plantations, and native allotments. You should learn to recognize these from the air as they are a sure indication of human activities. Remember that neither rubber trees nor coconut palms grow wild in any quantity, and if the plantation is there then the planter cannot be far off. He may only be an isolated Malay but he has to sell his crop somewhere, so he will have good though infrequent contacts with civilization. Remember, too, that rubber trees must be tapped daily to draw off the valuable sap, so that if you get into a rubber plantation you will be found within 24 hours.

5. Primary or secondary, the tropical rain jungle is a difficult and unpleasant land to live in and travel through. The soil is covered with dead and rotting vegetation over which leeches move in countless millions. Numerous other slugs, insects, and small animal life will be found, all in some way loathsome and unpleasant. In low-lying country the ground may be marshy and even under water, with only the trees and their buttressed roots showing the presence of soil below. Close to the ground will be found thick, and, in secondary forests, sometimes impenetrable, undergrowth containing a considerable number of plants, fruits, and vegetables, some edible and some poisonous. Over the undergrowth in primary jungle is the rather more open space beneath the jungle tree tops, with an abundance of all types of trees, creepers, and vines amongst which you will sometimes see animal and bird life. Over all this is the thick jungle top or umbrella through which little light penetrates. Here amongst the tree tops may be found birds, bees, moths, monkeys, and so on. Yet, despite the teeming life of this jungle you may journey for several days and see no sign of it, so timid and shy are the majority of the inhabitants ; and, among all these living things, you may starve if you are not jungle-wise.

6. The dry scrub country is more open than the wet jungle, and prickly-pear, cactus, and leafless cactus-like trees are common amid the thorny brakes and tall grass. It is tiresome to be caught in this country, for its lack of topographical features, population and tracks, make it difficult to find a way out. But patience, a compass, and common sense will do the trick.

7. Despite all the perils and unpleasantness of the jungle, thousands of Englishmen have lived and travelled in it safely for months on end, and hundreds of them have enjoyed it and still do. With a little knowledge you can achieve safety if not enjoyment.

## **ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE "JUNGLE HIKER"**

8. Whatever the type of country into which you are unfortunate enough to crash-land, or "bale-out", or if after a successful ditching you make a landfall on some small tropical island, your chances of survival and eventual rescue depend on a few definite factors. By far the most important of these is the first, "determination to live"; but together they will give you the morale to bring you through :—

- (a) Determination to live.
- (b) Previous knowledge ; ignorance of a few simple rules on the part of one member of the party is a danger to the remainder.
- (c) Confidence in your knowledge of jungle and island life.
- (d) Common sense and initiative.
- (e) Discipline, and a previously considered plan of action.
- (f) Ability to learn by your mistakes.

## **ACTION DURING EMERGENCY**

9. The ways of getting into the jungle are baling-out or crash-landing, and the decision will be dependent on the circumstances at the time of the emergency. But whichever course is chosen, on the way down, make a mental note of the following :—

- (a) The character of the country into which you are going. Consider the relative positions of rivers, lakes, clearings, paddy fields, high ground, ridges, villages, in fact anything which might be of use to you later on.
- (b) Try to pin-point yourself in relation to one of these, *i.e.* get a mental note of the bearing.
- (c) If baling-out into thick jungle, it will be vital that you should have some idea of the heading or bearing of the aircraft, or members of the crew in relation to each other, as once "in", it will be found extremely difficult to make contact if you have no knowledge of your relative positions.

### **To Jump or Not to Jump**

10. If the terrain is at all suitable it is normally better to crash-land than to bale-out. However, if you are over mountainous country, or if the aircraft is on fire or out of control, a crash-landing

may be out of the question. To sum up, the advantages of staying with your aircraft are :—

- (a) The crew is not separated and no member of it will be left alone. This is most desirable from the morale aspect.
- (b) All the equipment in the aircraft will be available and it will be possible to improvise other essential items from air-frame and engine parts.
- (c) The fuselage, if intact, provides shelter from animals, insects, and weather.
- (d) The aircraft or its wreckage is plainly visible from the air.

11. In contrast, baling-out offers only one distinct advantage, that is, the ability to get you down safely on almost any sort of country. However, try not to bale-out over primary jungle if you can avoid it, as you will almost certainly sustain some sort of injury when you land in the tree tops, and you may even find yourselves dangling twixt heaven and earth over a hundred feet from the ground.

12. For the reasons outlined above, if you have to bale-out over a jungle, try to arrange a rendezvous for the crew before you jump. The best rendezvous is your wrecked aircraft and you can decide on that action before you even take-off on a flight.

## **FORCED LANDING GROUNDS—**

### **SUITABLE TERRAIN**

13. The jungle does not offer much in the way of forced-landing areas, but if you have any choice or time to make a selection, consider the areas mentioned below, in order of preference :—

- (a) Beaches.
- (b) Clearings.
- (c) Paddy fields—land along the “bunds”, *i.e.* banks of mud dividing the fields.
- (d) Lakes and rivers.

***Do not land on tree tops***—if it has to be the tree tops, bale-out if there is the height and time to carry out the drill, with due consideration to all those in the aircraft.

## **IMMEDIATE ACTION ON LANDING**

14. The planning of a standard procedure is essential to the ultimate success of the incident, and the following immediate actions should be carried out after landing. This procedure or

drill is, of course, subsequent to the normal crash landing drills, precautions against fire, etc. :—

- (a) **First Aid.** Administer immediate first aid to the slightest scratch. In hot and tropical climates the risk of poisoning from an open wound is very great.
- (b) **Fix Position.** You cannot decide on a reliable plan of action until you have decided just where you are. You may not be able to fix your position to the nearest mile, but you must be able to say “I am within this area”. If the aircraft is intact, use the sextant, chronometer, and altimeter to help fix your position.
- (c) **Rendezvous if Scattered.** The place for rendezvous after parachute landing should normally be the wreckage of the aircraft. If the captain has sufficient time before ordering his crew to jump, he may decide to rendezvous at some geographical landmark. If so, he must ensure that all the crew know and can recognize the point of rendezvous and that the landmark is prominent, *e.g.* the confluence of two rivers.
- (d) **Establish Two-way Radio Contact if Possible.** If the aircraft radio equipment is intact, try and contact the outside world on W/T or R/T. Erect an emergency aerial if necessary and run one of the engines to maintain power if you can do so without risk of fire.
- (e) **Prepare all Signalling Gear for Immediate Use.** You will not have time to prepare signalling fires, etc., if you wait until you see aircraft searching for you. Have fires lighted in readiness for the search aircraft and keep oil and petrol near the fires so that you can produce a dense column of smoke at short notice. The petrol will make a rapid flare-up by night. Consider what steps can be taken to make the scene of the incident more noticeable from the air. Make a clearing for the display of ground signals (see page 68), or move to a clearing nearby if you can find one. Spread out parachutes and polished aluminium panels to reflect the sun. Try and evolve signalling methods which will show above the jungle top, *i.e.* smoke columns or parachutes spread over the trees.
- (f) **Check Emergency Equipment, including Rations.** Check the survival equipment available from your personal kits and emergency packs. Examine the other equipment in the aircraft and decide what will be of use to you, *e.g.* fire axe, compasses, parachutes, etc. Drain-off supplies of

petrol and oil for signalling purposes, check all available rations and water supplies. Try and repair any unserviceable or faulty equipment.

- (g) ***Institute Immediate Rationing.*** No matter how much food and water you have, you should attempt to conserve it as long as possible by rationing. Do not cut the water ration below one pint per person per day unless in dire emergency. If food and water supplies from the aircraft are scanty, take immediate steps to implement them from natural sources. Don't leave it until you are too weak before you begin to hunt for your meals. If you can get food and water locally do so, and reserve your emergency rations for a real emergency.
- (h) ***Elect a Leader and Delegate Duties.*** Normally the captain of aircraft will act as leader, but in special circumstances another member of the crew may be better suited. The captain may be injured, or one of his crew may be a jungle expert. In any event make a decision and stick to it. Each member of the crew should be given a special job, *e.g.* cooking, collecting water, building shelters, preparing signal gear, collecting edible plants, etc. Boredom and apathy can be dangerous to an idle man.
- (j) ***Relax and Formulate a Plan of Action.*** After you have checked your equipment, don't be in too much of a hurry to start on "trek" towards the nearest town. There may be very good reasons for staying with the aircraft and there is plenty of time for careful thought. Assume from the start that you are in for several days in the jungle and another 24 hours either way will not make much difference. A good night's sleep in a well constructed jungle camp will make all the difference to a shaken crew. *Do not* relax if you have force-landed in enemy territory.

## **PLAN OF ACTION**

15. If in wartime you have landed behind enemy lines, you must leave the scene of the crash at once. It may be advisable to split a large crew into parties of three or four men than to travel together. Once you are well clear of your crashed aircraft, set course for the nearest allied or neutral territory.

16. In peacetime or in friendly territory you must decide whether it is better to stay with the aircraft wreckage or to set out towards the nearest civilization. You may even decide to split the crew and leave some men with the aircraft while others go for help.



The main consideration is : *Are search aircraft likely to find you in less time than it will take to walk to civilization?* Once you start on "trek" there is little likelihood of your being seen from the air.

17. Once you have come to a decision based on careful consideration, put it into effect at once and stick to it. Your mental processes will be strained after several days in the jungle and you may later be tempted wrongly to abandon a good plan before it has had time to mature. Persevere and you will be successful.

18. Factors on which to base your decision are :—

- (a) Do the authorities know that you have force-landed and do they know the position of the incident? If so, you will soon be found if you stay with the aircraft.
- (b) If your position is not known, were you on track as per flight plan at the time of the crash? If you are missing, the first search will be along this track.
- (c) Is the aircraft wreckage easily visible from the air? Can you make it visible?
- (d) Have local forces sufficient aircraft at their disposal for an effective search; have the aircraft sufficient range to reach you?
- (e) Is the weather favourable for search aircraft?
- (f) Are transit or other aircraft likely to fly over your position? If so, how frequently?
- (g) Do you know your own position accurately? If so, are you in easy reach of any known human habitation? Is the country between it and your present position easy to traverse? How long will the journey take you?
- (h) Are all the crew fit for a journey through the jungle? Is any member so seriously injured as to need immediate medical aid? In the latter event, it may be advisable to send one party off for help while others stay with the injured man.
- (j) Have you good supplies of survival equipment for a long march through the jungle : compasses, matches, etc.?
- (k) What are your supplies of food and water? Consider the supplies available from aircraft emergency packs and those obtainable from natural sources. Is there a good water supply near your wrecked aircraft? Will you be able to live off the jungle when your emergency rations are expended?
- (l) Lastly, how much do you know about jungle survival? If you have little confidence in your knowledge, stay where you are.

19. If you decide to remain with the aircraft you must ensure that every possible means of attracting attention is ready for instant use. Sound does not travel through thick jungle vegetation, so you can expect little warning of an approaching aircraft, and should one come within range the opportunity must not be lost. See that you are prepared and try to erect as many permanent indicators as you can.

(a) ***Permanent Ground Signals.*** Parachute canopies spread out preferably over tree tops or in open clearings. Yellow dinghies inflated and placed in clearings. Bright panels or cowlings spread out near the aircraft, broken glass, the aerial kite flown above the tree tops, white clothing spread out on a line.

(b) ***Distress Signals.*** Flame fires using petrol or dried wood by night; smoke fires, using oil or damp leaves by day; (keep fires lit all the time if the local wood is damp and fires are difficult to light); pyrotechnics; and fluorescence in streams.

20. If you intend to leave the aircraft you must first decide how much equipment to take with you. Don't take too much as you will soon find it heavy and cumbersome. Take such items as parachute canopies, for tents and hammocks; shroud lines for ropes, etc.; personal survival kits, first aid kits, fire axes and food and water. If you have not all got tropical back-packs a good container can be made from the parachute pack by cutting away surplus webbing. Another method of carrying equipment is to sling it on a long pole carried between the shoulders of two men. Don't discard too much clothing when setting out on "trek". The jungle is cold at night and you will need protective covering against mosquitoes and leeches, etc. Gloves are invaluable for clearing away thorns. When you leave the aircraft wreckage display a prominent notice saying where you have gone, and spread out the appropriate Ground Air Emergency signal.

## **JUNGLE HAZARDS**

21. The large majority of people have an entirely erroneous impression of the risks and dangers involved in jungle travel. The majority think immediately of the big game, snakes, and other reptiles; so it must be made perfectly clear, that though the wild animals may abound in jungle country, they are as much concerned about keeping out of your way as, no doubt, you will be about keeping out of theirs. Where then are the dangers, from what source, and direction?

22. The greatest dangers lie in the demoralizing and cumulative effect of sometimes rather insignificant factors, which may be summarized under the following headings:—

- (a) Panic.
- (b) Sun and heat, and sickness therefrom.
- (c) Sickness, and fever—malaria, dysentery, sand-fly, typhus—are some of the more common.
- (d) Demoralizing effect and danger from all forms of animal life.
- (e) Poisoning, by eating or contact with plants. (See paras. 99 and 100.)

Most of these hazards are avoidable by taking precautions as provided by Service medical treatment, plus an elementary knowledge of personal hygiene.

## **Effects of Sun and Heat**

23. The sun is highly dangerous because the effects are so frequently ignored. It causes sunstroke—or heatstroke—sunburn, and what is often referred to as heat exhaustion.

24. Sunstroke may occur at any time, day or night ; the victim becomes feeble and giddy, his throat is dry, he suffers from thirst, his skin becomes cold and clammy, the pulse increases and weakens, his temperature rises, he appears flushed, and he vomits. Move the victim into the shade, where there is a free circulation of air, strip to the waist and place in a sitting position on the ground. If possible spray cold water over the head and back, and give the victim ice or cold water ; as the temperature falls cover him with a blanket, and ensure he remains in the shade.

25. The prevention of sunburn is much easier than its treatment ; remember this when in the tropics. Many people become severely burned because they fail to realize that the effects of sunburn are not felt until too late ; that is, when you notice your skin turning pink, or feeling hot. When hazy or overcast, danger from sunburn is greater, as it is even less noticeable, there being so much reflected light. Should sunburn affect more than two-thirds of your body, it is likely to prove fatal. Therefore go carefully, take the precaution of keeping out of the sun as much as possible, and allow your skin to tan slowly, after which the dangers from sunburn are somewhat reduced.

26. **Heat exhaustion** is caused from long and continuous exposure to heat with high humidity, and may occur without direct exposure to the sun. The skin becomes cold and clammy with sub-normal temperature ; the only cure is to get into the shade, and cover yourself to avoid becoming chilled, taking plenty of water and salt. Salt tablets should be taken daily if you have an ample supply of water available. Don't take them if water is scarce, as they will increase your thirst.

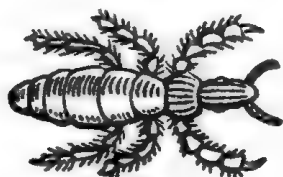
## **Sickness and Fever**

27. **Malaria.** This is caused by the bite of an infected mosquito and the fever occurs at regular intervals after the first attack. As it begins the victim feels chilly and shivers; later in the attack he feels a burning fever. The hot and cold fevers alternate throughout the illness. Malaria may be prevented or minimized in two ways: by taking mepacrine consistently, and by avoiding mosquito bites. The latter course entails wearing long-sleeved coats and long trousers at all times. The jungle mosquito does not bite only by night, as the jungle is always protected from direct sunlight. The treatment for malaria is rest, copious drinks of water, and strong doses of mepacrine, six to eight tablets per day, until the attack is over. Once the temperature falls the patient can continue working or marching but there may be minor after-effects for some days.

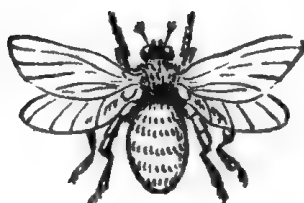
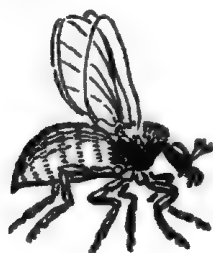
28. **Dysentery.** Caused by eating or drinking polluted food or water. There are two types, but both have the same symptoms which are severe inflammation of the bowels and abdominal pains, and severe and continuous diarrhoea accompanied by green and bloody faeces. To prevent dysentery see that all doubtful food is cooked and all water purified. Be particularly careful near native villages where the vegetables, etc., are often fertilized with human excreta. To treat dysentery, sulphaguanadine is supplied in the tropical first-aid kit. Routine treatment is to put the patient on a soft liquid diet of milk, boiled rice, coconut milk, boiled bread, etc. The patient should take plenty of boiled water. Ordinary diarrhoea, which may be mistaken for dysentery, is often caused by stomach chills at night. To avoid chill, wrap a towel or cummerbund around your stomach when you go to sleep no matter how hot you feel.

29. **Sandfly Fever.** Caused by the bite of the sandfly and has symptoms similar to malaria. To avoid the fever don't get bitten. Treatment as for malaria.

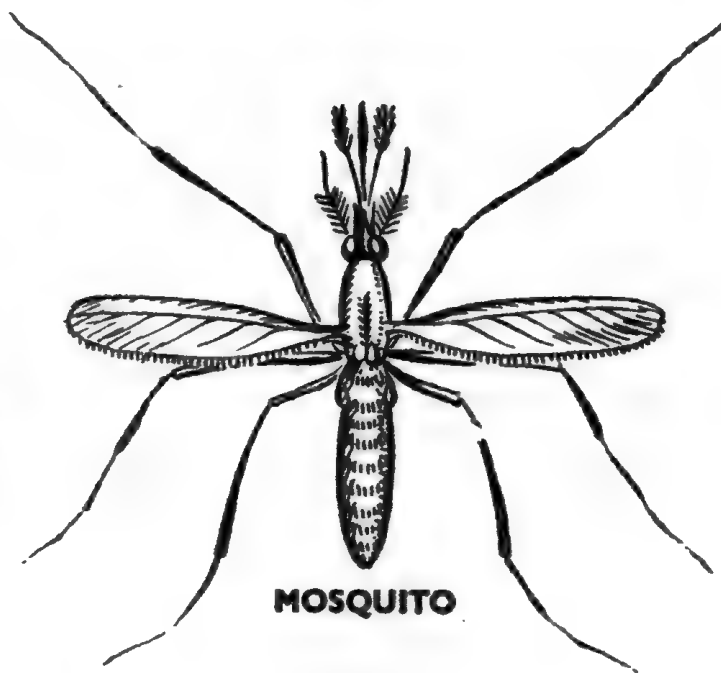
30. **Typhus.** Usually caused by the bite of an infected louse or a tick. The symptoms are a severe headache, weakness, fever and aching, the victim's face turns dusky, the tongue and lips become coated with a brown fur and on the fifth day the skin becomes



**BODY LOUSE**



**SANDFLY**



**MOSQUITO**

mottled and covered with a bright pink rash. Typhus is likely to prove fatal without medical attention. It can be avoided by regular inoculation and by personal cleanliness. Ensure that all ticks are removed from the skin and check clothes daily for lice ; wash the body at least once a day.

### **Danger from Forms of Animal Life**

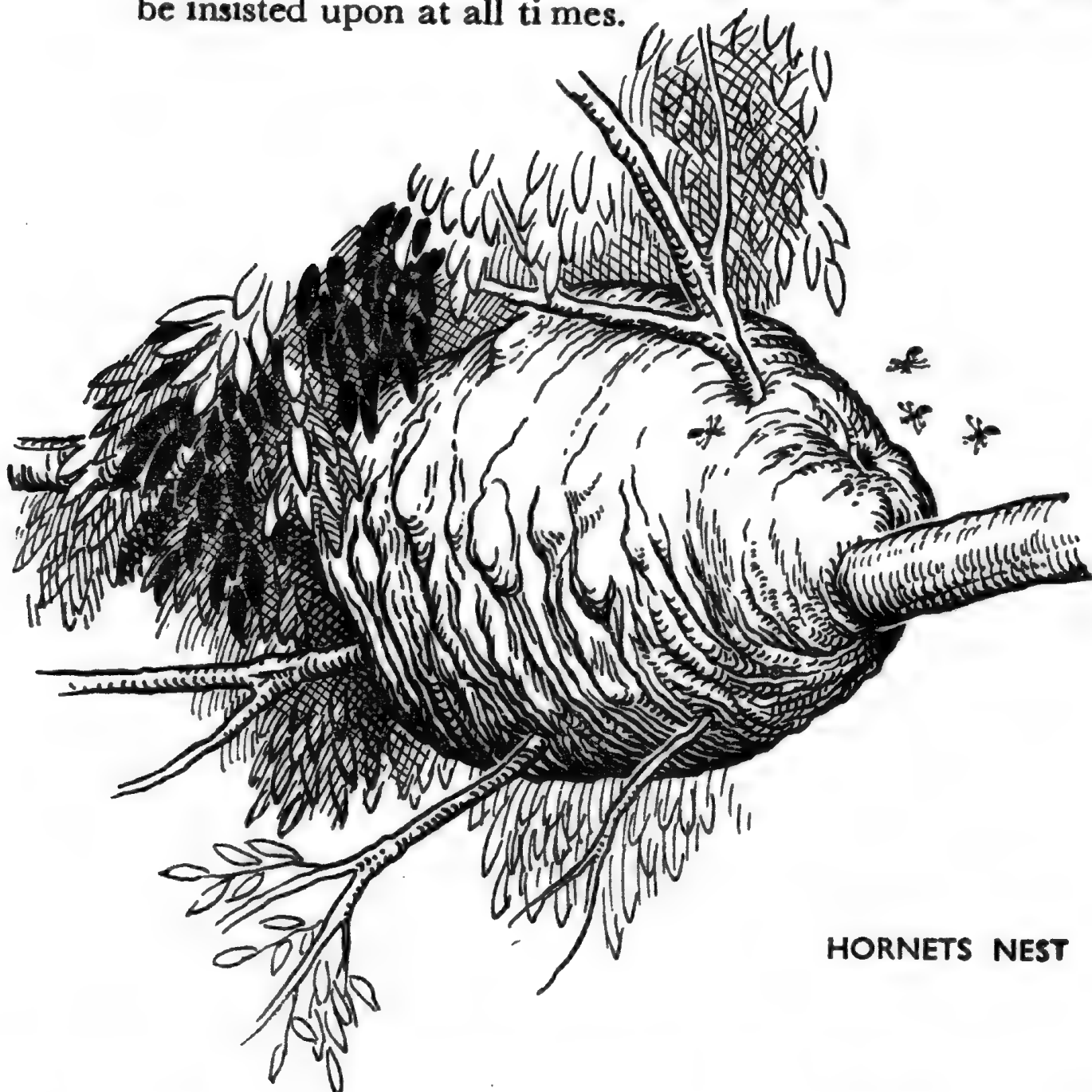
31. The forms of animal life differ in various parts of the world and a certain type might be dangerous to man in one part and not in another. The most deadly form of animal life is the mosquito which is found all over the world in different forms, but it can only be dangerous in certain areas.

32. **Mosquitoes.** The anopheles mosquito carries malaria and is a menace against which every precaution should be taken.

- (a) Always wear a mosquito net and leave no part of the body exposed.
- (b) If you have no mosquito net, a handkerchief, parachute canopy or large leaf can be used as a makeshift.
- (c) At night in particular, but at all times if possible, have trouser legs tucked into the tops of your socks, and shirt or tunic sleeves into gloves.



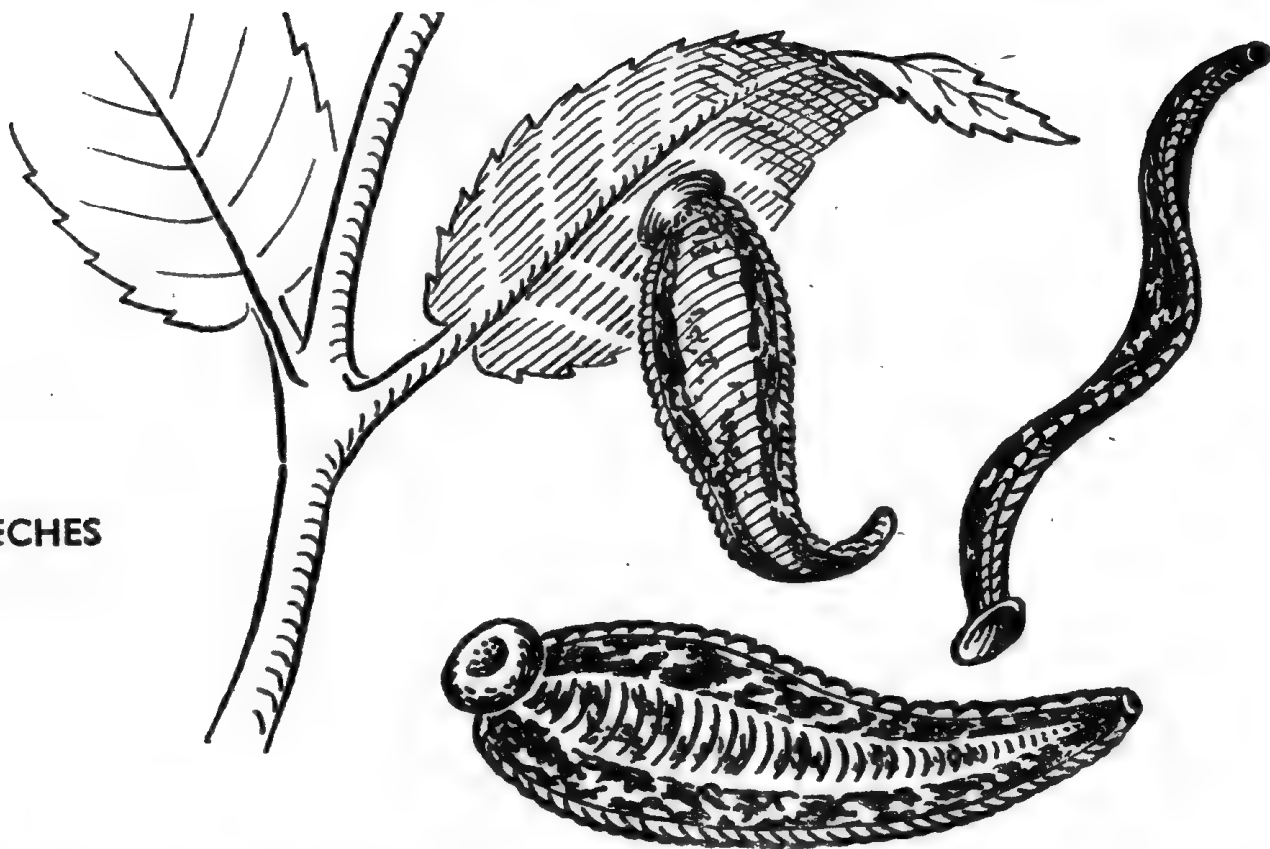
- (d) When encamped, have at all times a smoky fire burning and sleep to leeward of it.
- (e) Keep away from swampy and stagnant areas when resting or camping in the jungle, for these are the mosquitoes' breeding ground.
- (f) There is no preventive inoculation against malaria, so very strict observance of these anti-malarial measures must be insisted upon at all times.



HORNETS NEST

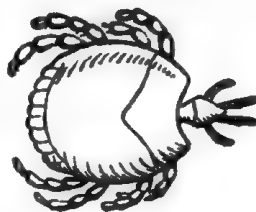
33. *Wasps, Bees and Hornets.* These are dangerous pests. Their nests are generally brownish bags or oblong masses on trunks and branches at a height of 10-30 feet, and often on dead standing trunks. If a nest is disturbed and you are some yards away, sit still for five minutes and then crawl carefully away. Wasps go for moving targets, but should you be attacked, run through the bushiest undergrowth.

## LEECHES



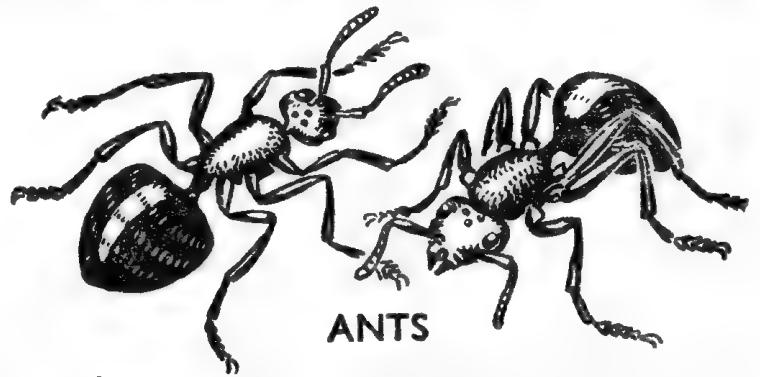
34. **Leeches.** Never pull them off, as their jaws will remain in the bite, and possibly fester and irritate. When moving through the jungle, if smoking, keep the pieces of unburnt tobacco, and wrap them up in a piece of material. When de-leeching, moisten the bag so formed, and squeeze the nicotine onto the leech. Other methods of de-leeching are the juice of the raw lime, salt, ash, and ash from a cigarette-end, or pipe. By using these methods, you force the leech to withdraw its jaws from the flesh and to drop off, with no risk of infection. Leave the blood clot on the leech bite as long as possible, squeezing it slightly at first to ensure the wound is clean, and the bleeding will stop in a few minutes. Leeches abound in lowland forest after rain, so keep a look out for these pests, and inspect your legs and boots every few minutes, and flick off any leech which has not yet got a hold. The large horse-leech will normally be found only in the sluggish lowland streams and swampy forest.

35. **Ticks.** Small grey ticks cause irritation, they swarm on plants or on dead fallen trunks, and might swarm onto a person in great numbers. Found during the wet season, ticks should immediately be removed from clothing, by hanging over or to leeward of a smoky fire; in the same way if ticks are on the body they can be smoked off. Remember also, when dealing with dead game, that ticks thrive on game, and especially on wild pig.

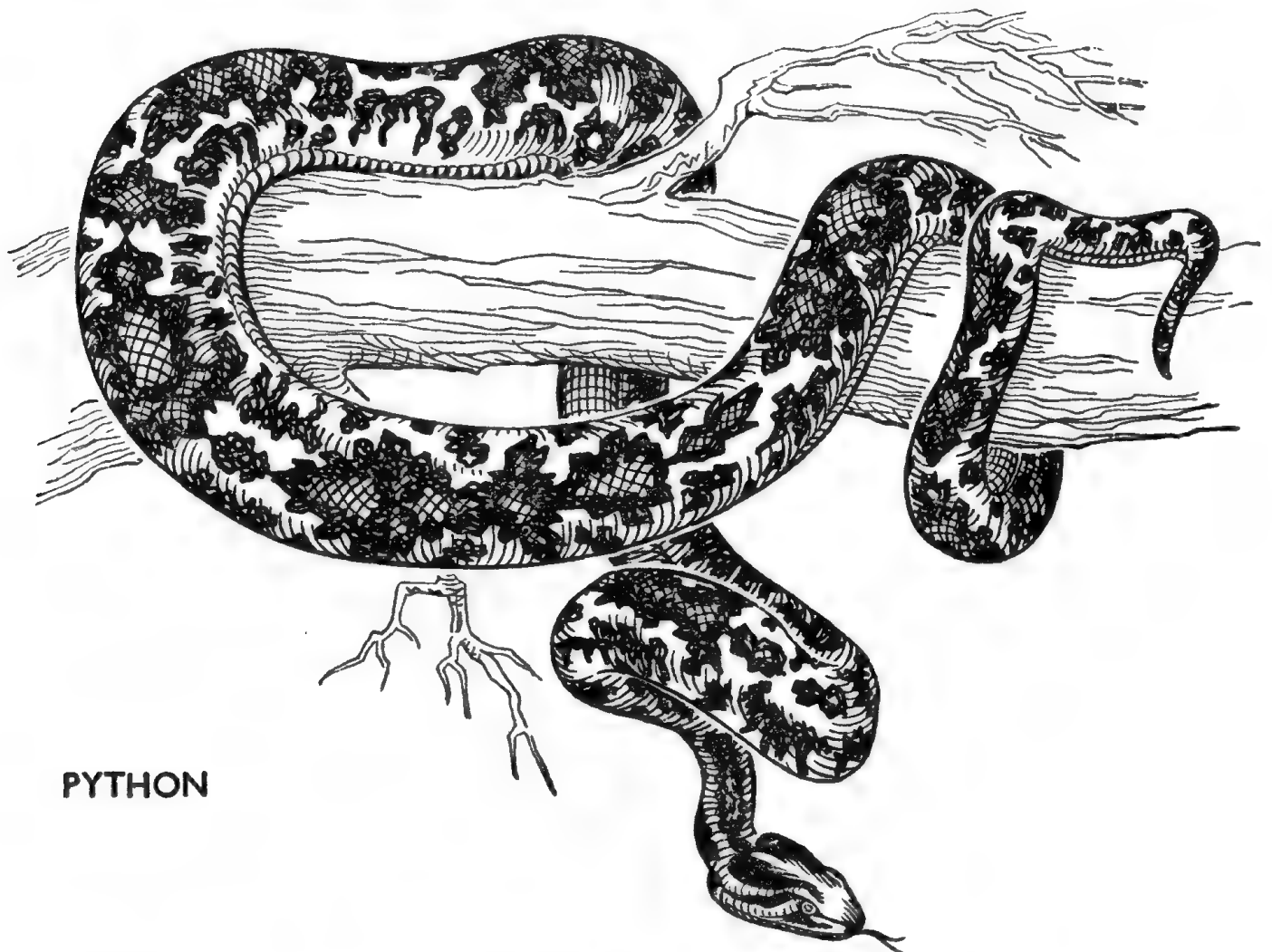


TICKS.

36. *Ants.* The Red Ant makes its nest on the twigs of trees or shrubs, and is persistent in its biting attacks ; other smaller biting ants have nests like earthy lumps, and it is wise to avoid trees with such apparent growths on them. Trees seen with leaves clumped together into small masses, or those on which ferns and orchids grow should also be avoided, as these will most probably harbour the biting ant.



37. *Snakes.* Even the most deadly snakes prefer to glide away at the approach of man ; but watch out for alarming one, or cornering it, particularly if following animal tracks, where they are found motionless on the ground, blending with their surroundings. Details of some of the snakes to be found in the jungle are given below :—

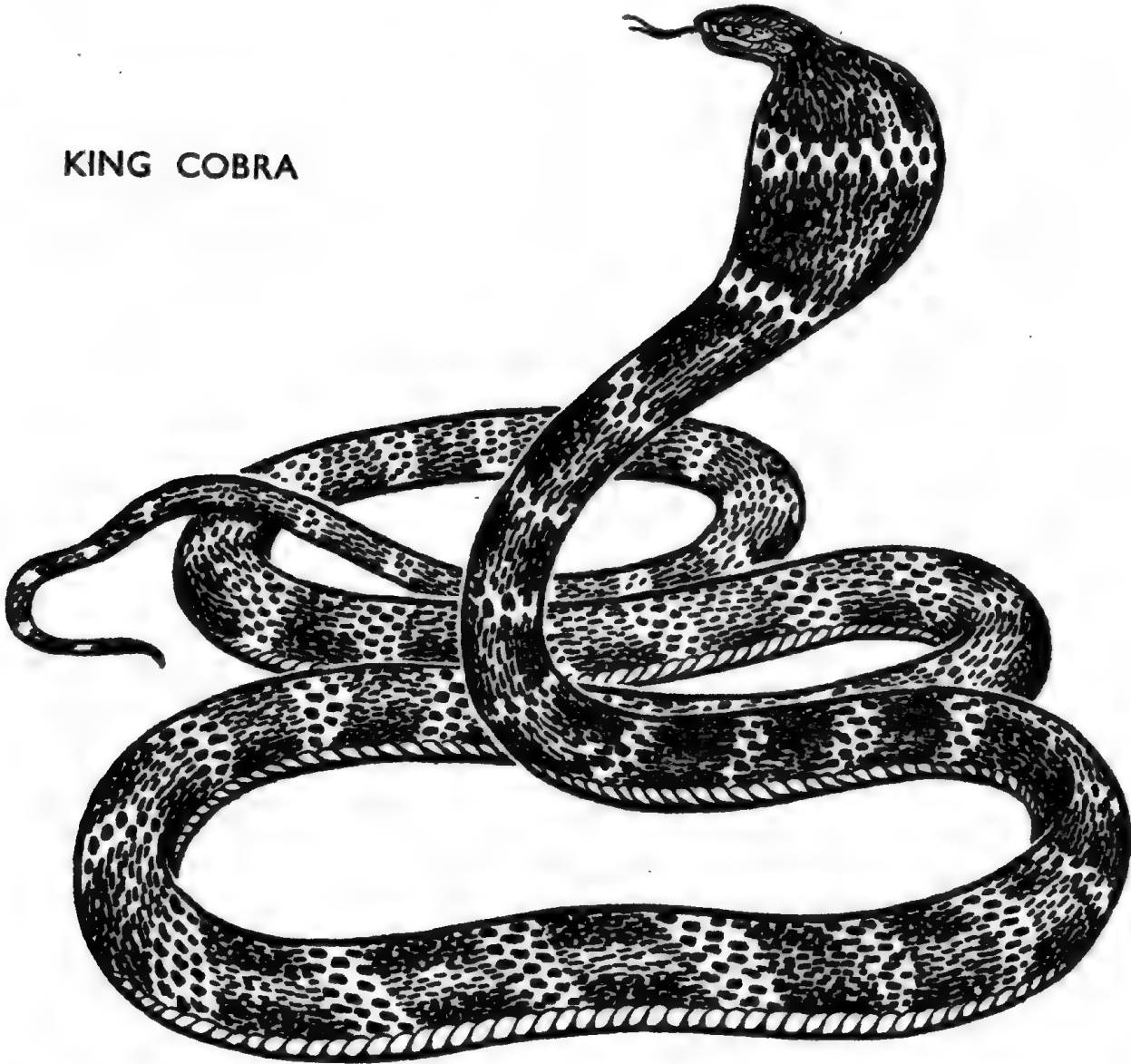


(a) *Python.* Length up to, but usually well below, 20 feet. A large constricting snake, sluggishly active by day and night. It prefers the forest, and may be found on the

ground, up trees, or in the water. It is not of a timid nature, but though of very great strength, makes no attempt to avenge injury or offence. Has rarely been known to attack human beings.

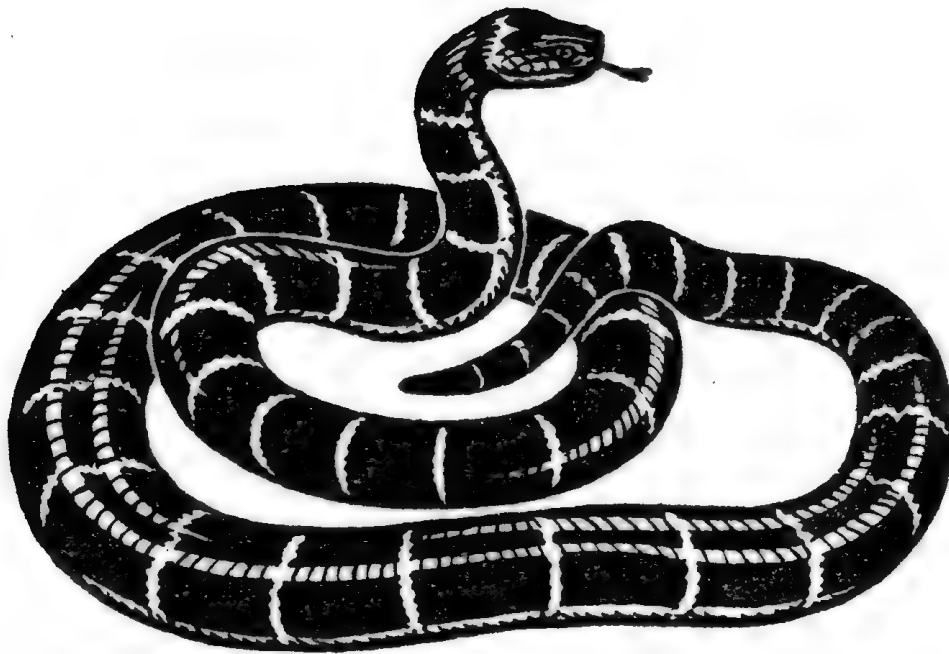
- (b) ***Hamadryad or King Cobra.*** The largest of all poisonous snakes and is said to be the only one which will deliberately attack a man. It is olive or a yellowish brown in colour

KING COBRA



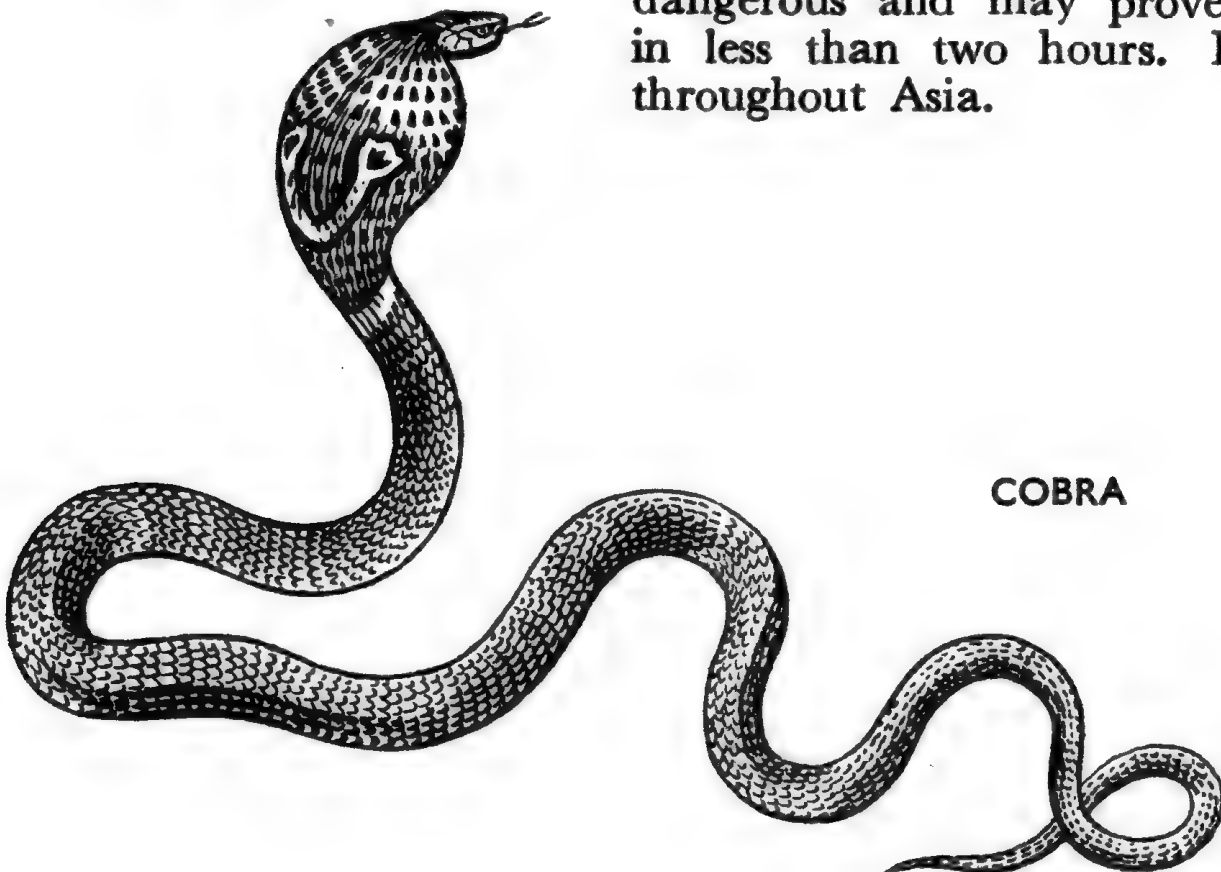
and may have a length of up to 18 feet. It is found in India, Malaya, South China and the Philippines. It is very aggressive and its bite is dangerous.

- (c) ***Krait.*** Length about 3 feet, colour glistening black with narrow white cross bars. It lives in fields, grass, paddy and low scrub jungle and is found in India, Malaya and South China. Its bite is lethal, but it will seldom attack even under provocation.



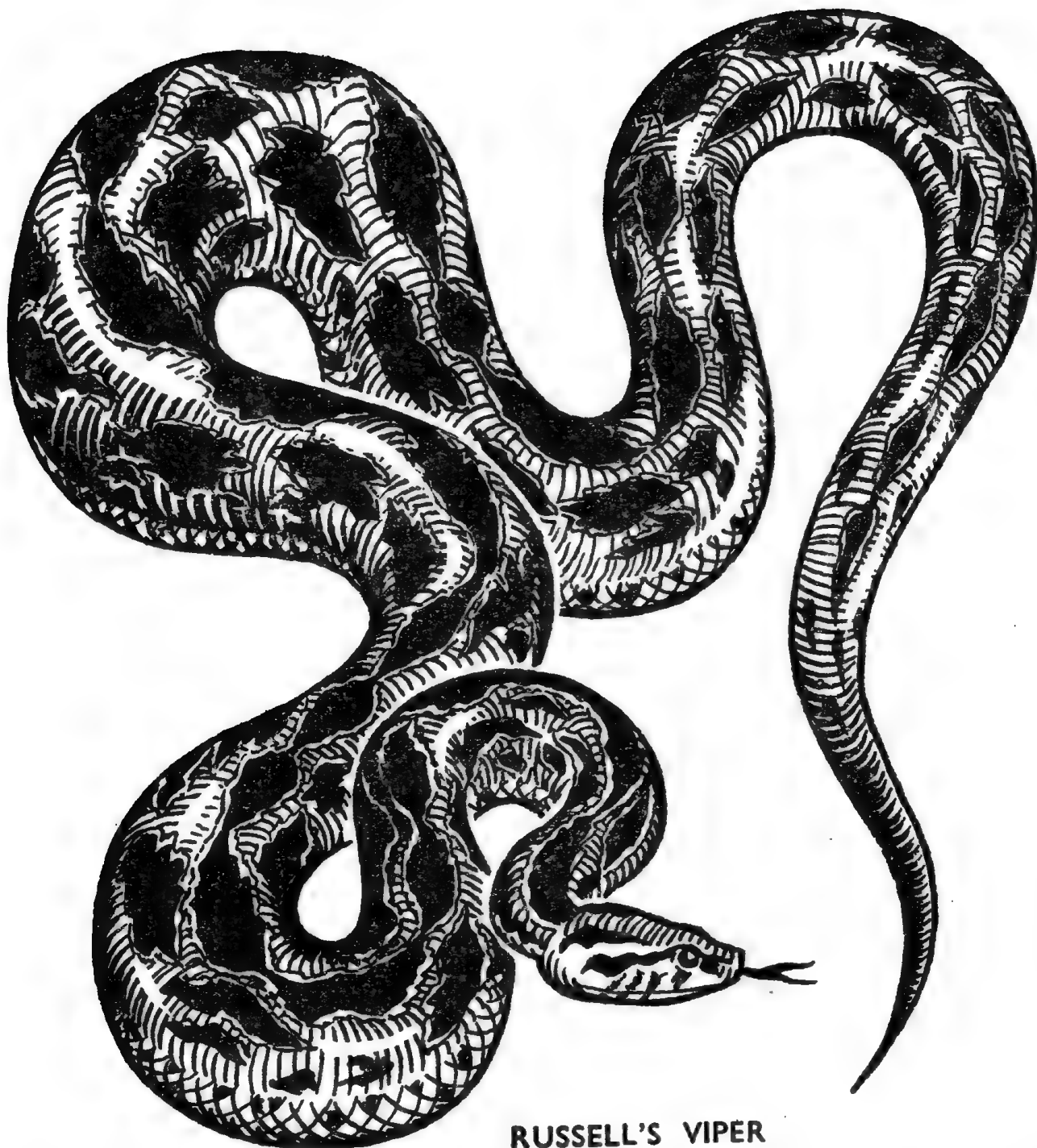
KRAIT

- (d) **Banded Krait.** Colour black with broad yellow bands. Is found in the same countries as the ordinary krait, but prefers wet jungle areas. Not aggressive.
- (e) **Cobra.** Length 5-6 feet. Its colour varies from pale brown to black. It has spectacle-like markings on the upper surface of the neck which are best seen when the hood is distended. It is most active by night, but will only attack man if disturbed or frightened. The bite is dangerous and may prove fatal in less than two hours. Found throughout Asia.



COBRA

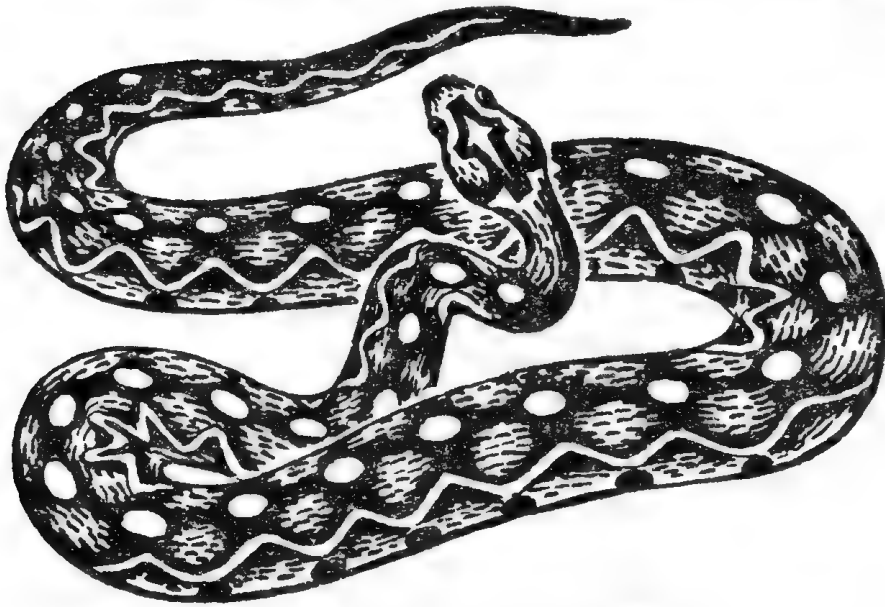




RUSSELL'S VIPER

- (f) *Russell's Viper or Tic-Polonga*. Length up to 4 feet, dark brown in colour with three longitudinal series of black rings. Its underside is normally white or pale yellow but is sometimes mottled brown, the head is large and ugly and is covered with symmetrical dark markings. It is nocturnal in habit, usually sluggish but violent when roused. It is particularly dangerous in that, because of sluggish nature, it fails to get out of the way, and when attacking it can jump its own length. Its bite may be fatal in 24 hours. Found throughout South East Asia.
- (g) *Hump-nosed Viper*. Length about 30 inches. Its habits are similar to those of the Russell's Viper, but its bite is seldom fatal. Generally found under dead leaves and undergrowth.

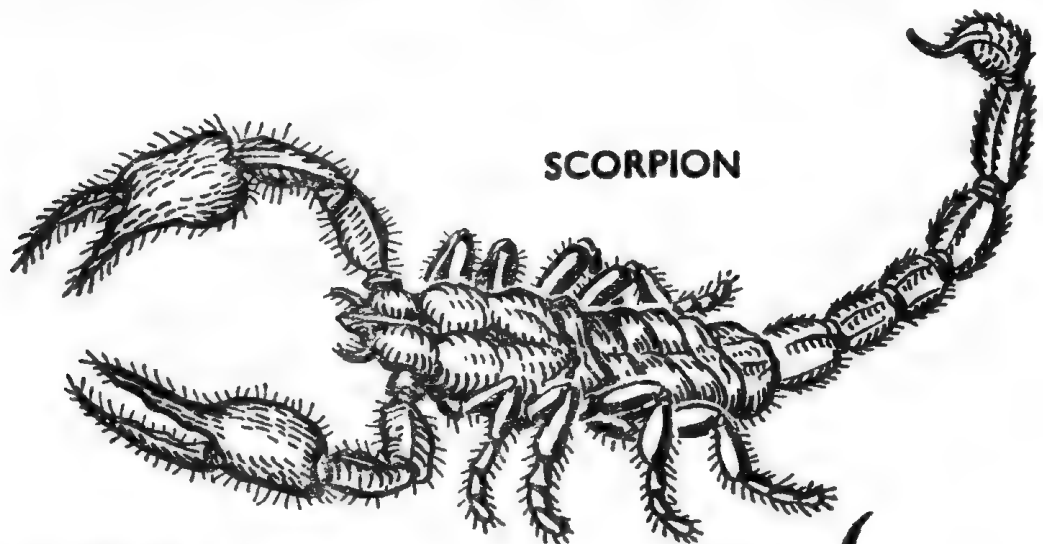
(h) *Saw-Scaled Viper*. Found in dry sandy areas where there is little vegetation. Its length is about 2 feet, and it is sandy yellow in colour with darker spots. It is aggressive and very poisonous. It may be found in the full blaze of the sun or beneath hot stones and in crannies heated by the sun. It has a habit of lying in a figure of eight with its head in the centre. Found in Syria, Persia and India.



SAW-SCALED VIPER

(j) *Sea Snakes*. Found around the tropical shores of the Pacific and Indian Oceans and in river estuaries. They do not frequent deep water. All sea snakes are poisonous but are seldom known to have attacked bathers. 2-4 feet long.

38. *Scorpions and Centipedes*. Although common in the tropics they are seldom seen in the open. They may be found under the



SCORPION



CENTIPEDE

bark of fallen tree trunks and under stones or rocks. Neither scorpion nor centipede will normally attack unless molested, but take care when handling rotten vegetation or when moving rocks. Inspect your boots before you put them on, as scorpions like to hide in discarded footwear.

39. *Sandflies*. Abundant by rivers, old forest clearings, and on sea shores. Take precautions as for mosquitoes.

40. *Big Game*. Most big game will avoid the scent and sound of man. If you travel noisily everything else will get out of your way. At night and in camp, keep a fire going to scare off wandering animals. Wild elephants may be inquisitive but will not approach a fire or light. Tigers are only dangerous when old and confirmed man-eaters. Avoid the banks of rivers, waterholes, and game trails by night and look out for crocodiles in the water at all times. Throwing stones is supposed to drive off crocodiles but you may not care to trust this.

## JUNGLE TRAVEL

41. It is not generally possible to travel direct across country through the jungle. Your choice of paths will normally be restricted to streams and rivers, dry water courses, game trails, native paths, and along crests of ridges. These are the jungle highways and they have one thing in common—they run parallel to or follow the tilt of the land. Few jungle tracks cross from one valley to another or traverse a series of crests; rather they run along the valleys or along the ridges separating the valleys. If there are no paths or streams, etc., and you have to cut across country, you may be able to make headway, but only at less than one mile per hour. Even a track 25° off your required bearing is better than no track at all. In jungle country you may find difficulty in reconciling the map and the compass. If in doubt, trust the compass, as jungle paths change position frequently and even rivers change their courses.

42. Tracks, game trails, streams, and ridges are animal highways at night, so keep clear of them in the hours of darkness.

43. To reach human habitation, follow down the course of a river or stream. Native villages are invariably sited on the banks and at the confluence of rivers which are the natives' trade routes.

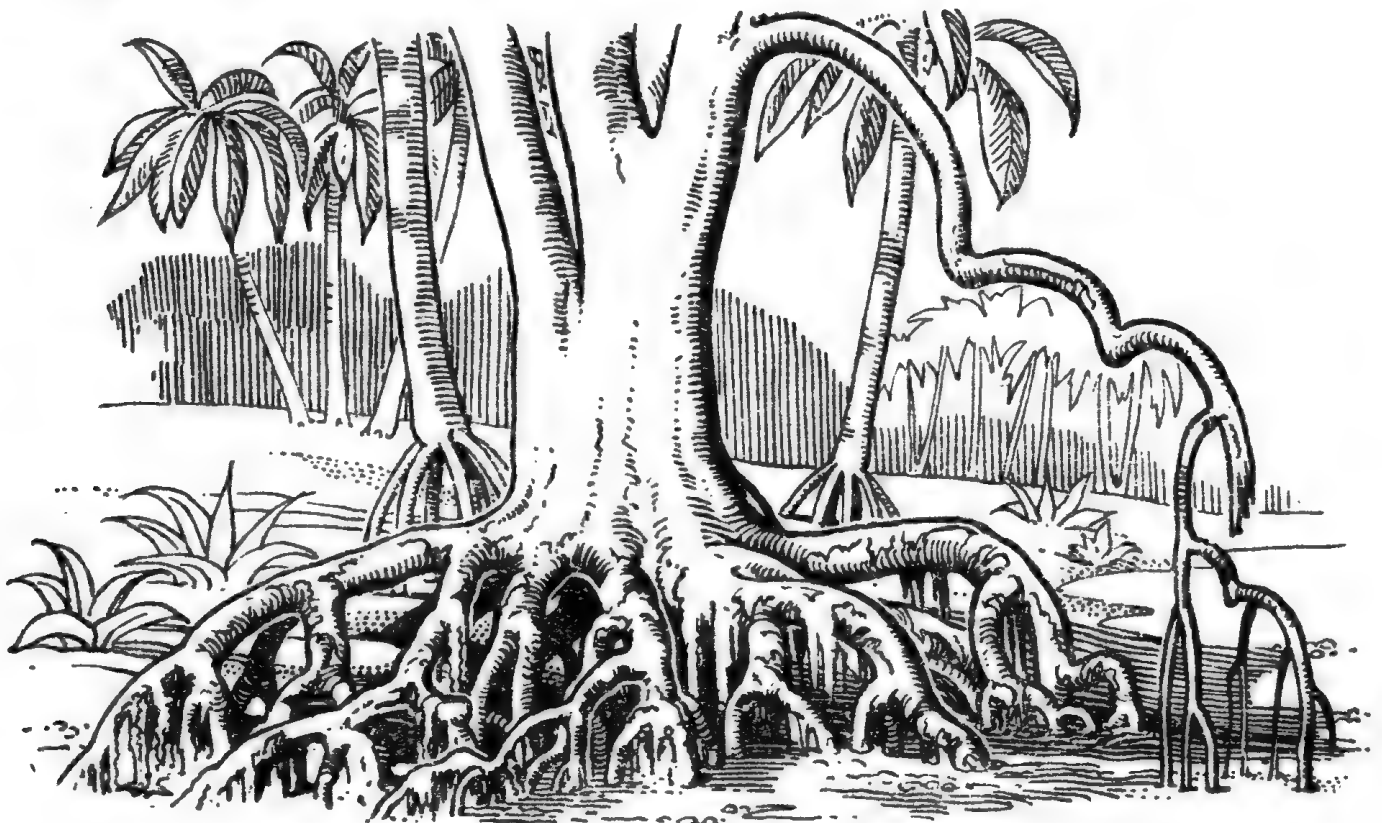
44. If you wish to leave your camp site and later return to it, mark your trail. Blaze trees to show the white wood as you proceed, or cut off palm leaves and turn them upside-down to show their lighter undersides. Stones and broken branches will also mark a trail.



#### BLAZE TRAIL

45. If you are without a compass, follow a stream or river and do not attempt to strike across country. If you have a compass, use it constantly and maintain direction by sighting on a landmark ahead on your required bearing. Make for this landmark and then consult the compass again.

#### SPLIT ROOTS





46. If you wish to attract attention, do not wear yourself out by shouting. Hitting the trunk of a tall tree with a stout stick will make a drumming noise which carries much further than the voice.

47. In the lowlands trees with split roots will indicate swampy and perhaps tidal ground. Avoid all swamps, particularly mangrove swamps. The going is almost impossible and you are likely to get stuck half-way and have to turn back.

48. Never rush blindly forward. Whenever possible go slowly and deliberately, looking well ahead for hornets' nests, etc. Look out for snakes lying in the path. If you are in a party, travel in single file and have a "slasher" with a machete or knife in the van.

49. Do not tread or sit on rotten trunks or tree stumps, as they often harbour ticks. For the same reason avoid the wallows of large animals and wild pig. Never hit any dead or decaying vegetation without looking upwards. Dead branches may fall on you if you do not look.

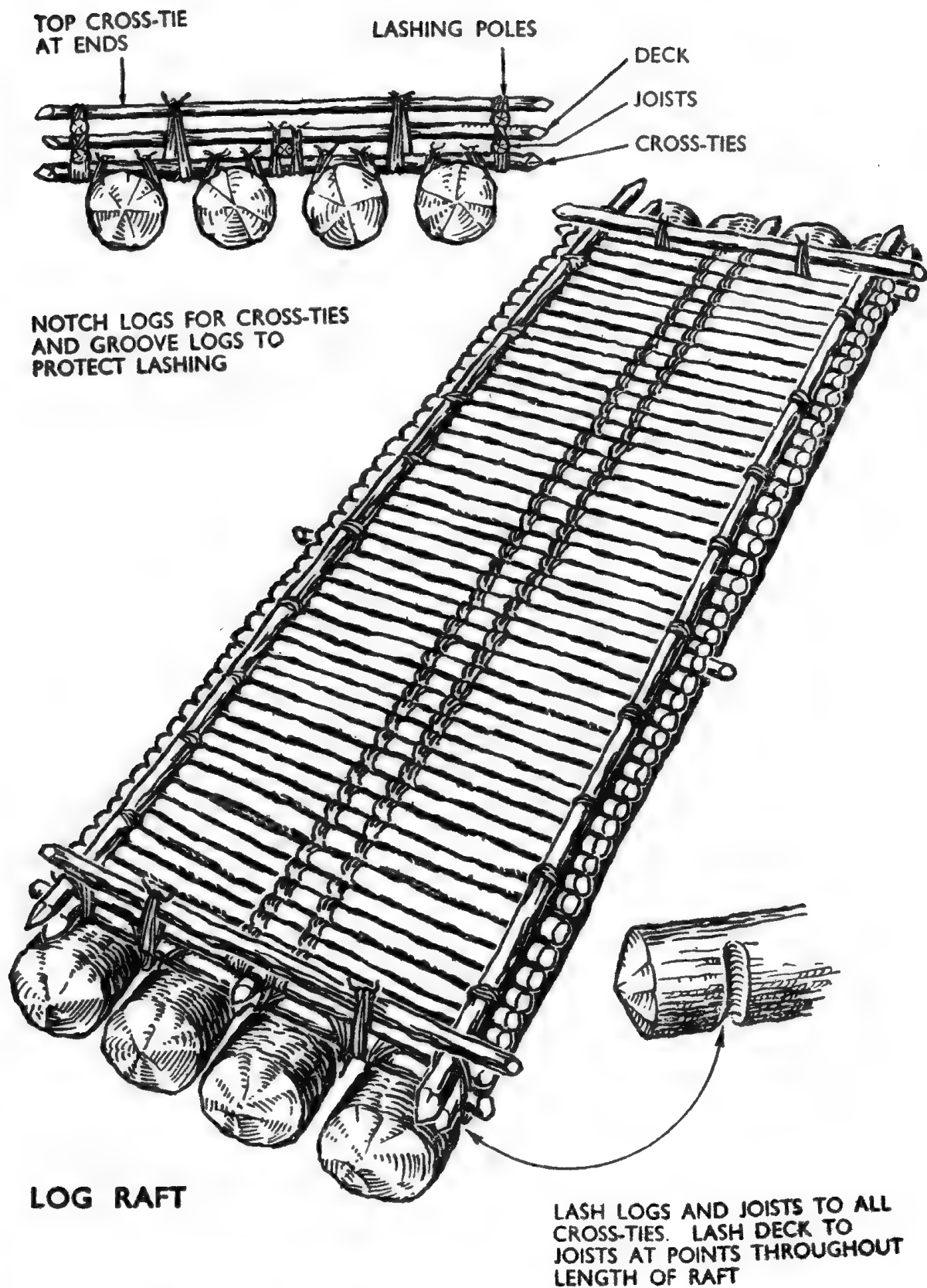
50. In steep gullies or on hillsides there is often an accumulation of boulders and tree roots which become covered with mould and moss and form a false ground layer. Beware of breaking a leg by falling through this.

51. If you have no compass, you can judge direction by the sun, but you can only do so with accuracy in the morning and evening. At midday in the tropics the sun is so high that it is useless as a directional aid and you cannot find the North Point from your watch as you would do in England. Remember that the sun may be North or South at midday, depending on the time of year and your position relative to the equator. However, the sun always rises in the East and sets in the West. At night the Southern Cross gives a good indication of South.

52. For crossing streams and rivers make a raft of bamboo or some other light wood. Palm logs and jungle hard-woods do not float. If anyone has to swim across a river, throw stones in the stream and splash about to scare off crocodiles.

53. Take things easily, giving yourself a break every hour or thereabouts, depending on the type of country. This break of five or ten minutes should be utilized to discuss your route, take refreshment, to de-leech and to repair clothing and equipment. Make an early start and strike camp early so that by sundown the camp is organized and all are ready to settle for the night.





54. Take all normal precautions to keep yourself fit and see that other members of the party do the same. Scratches and bites should be attended to right away, and make sure that due care and attention is given to the feet. This involves taking off all footwear at night and, where possible, washing and drying socks and stockings. Check footwear in the morning for scorpions by tapping them on the ground. If you find you are getting blisters on your feet, stop at once and put a dressing over the blister. Do not wait until the blister becomes unbearable.

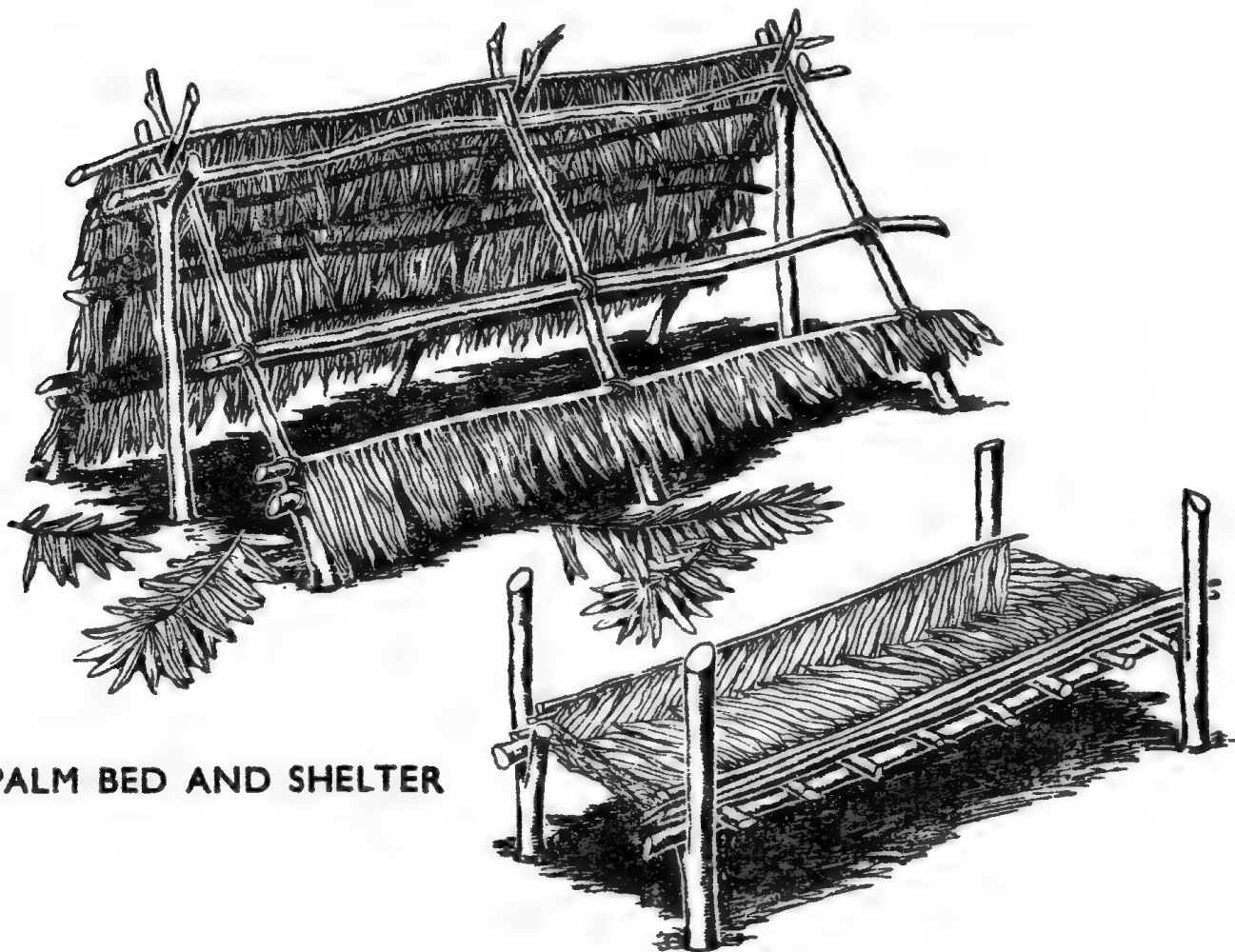
## CAMPING SITES

55. The requirements of an ideal camp site are as follows :—

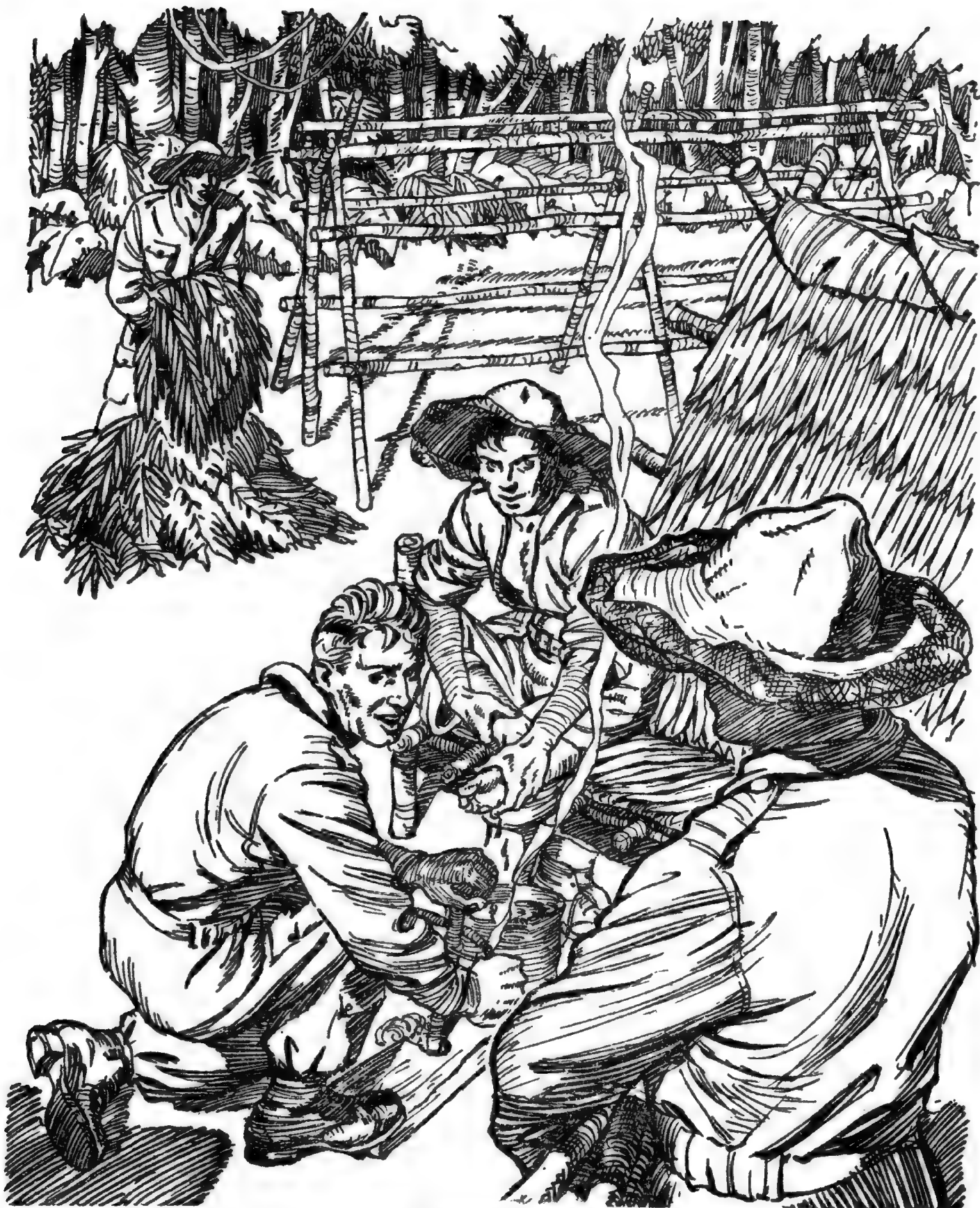
- (a) Proximity to water and food.
- (b) Solid ground free from mud.
- (c) Freedom from dead and decaying vegetation and insects.
- (d) Freedom from overhanging branches, or from coconuts overhead.
- (e) Natural protection from weather and animal life.
- (f) Concealment in wartime.

56. Unless one is able to keep dry and free from insects and other irritants, there will be little rest during nights spent in the jungle : so take some care over the selection of the camp site. Make your decision in good time so that the site may be made safe and comfortable before nightfall. Do not, however, insist on finding a place which meets all the above requirements or you are likely to search all night.

57. Start off by clearing away all dead and rotting vegetation, as such rubbish encourages ticks, ants, leeches, etc., and as soon as possible light a fire, as the smoke will drive away those irritating insects, quite apart from being ready to cook and heat water later on, as required. Arrange for a supply of bamboo, if it is available, as it will be found invaluable for cooking and boiling water.



PALM BED AND SHELTER



#### CAMPING SITE

58. Make yourself a bed, either by utilizing the parachute canopy you have brought with you or by collecting twigs and small branches from the trees, covering a cleared area of ground with them, and then adding a further covering of leaves. This will ensure your having a good night's rest, and also insulation against ground chill and dampness. You are likely to be very cold at night, so don't discard blankets and heavy clothes if you have them with you.

59. Your fire will produce a certain amount of ash, which should be removed from the fire, and spread in an unbroken line around the camp site, thus ensuring no intrusion from the innumerable insects to be found crawling around on the floor of the jungle.

DON'T camp in river beds, though they might look clear and dry, as a storm in the hills might flood the river in a few hours.

DON'T be too concerned about the proximity of water. If making camp for an indefinite period, consider the laying-on of a water supply by using sections of split bamboo in the form of guttering, having tapped the stream at a point further up from the camp site.

DON'T overlook the necessity of making sanitary arrangements, as this will avoid risk of developing one of the numerous diseases affecting the intestines. See that all refuse is deposited well clear of the camp, and buried if possible. (See First Aid and Personal Hygiene.)

## **FIRES**

60. On the assumption that you have the means to kindle a fire, the following points should be borne in mind :—

- (a) Use judgment in the selection of a fire site. Pick a spot where there is no danger of the fire spreading ; dry and sheltered if possible. During the wet season find a dry spot under a leaning tree or similar shelter.
- (b) Use dry fuel, which may consist of dry grasses or plant stems, dry leaves or bark from trees. Dead wood from trees, and pieces found in rotting trunks or fallen branches will be found to be dry even in the wet season. Do not use wet bamboo as it may explode in the fire and throw out dangerous splinters.
- (c) Have a good supply of firewood and kindling available before starting a fire, and having got some of the smaller pieces of wood to burn, add the others and build the fire up, rather than attempt to start with a large one.

61. A fire, quite apart from giving a little moral comfort, discourages the approach of any wild animal, and also smokes away all forms of insect life. Remember when leaving camp to ensure that the fire has been properly extinguished, either by watering thoroughly, or spreading the ashes and stamping them out. In



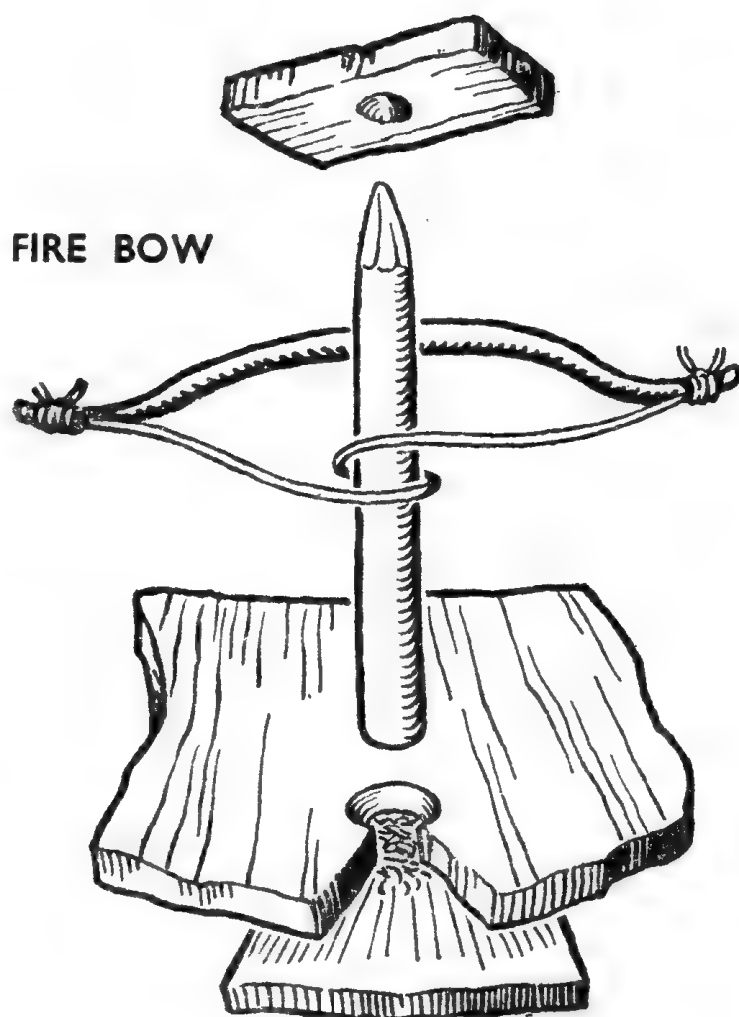
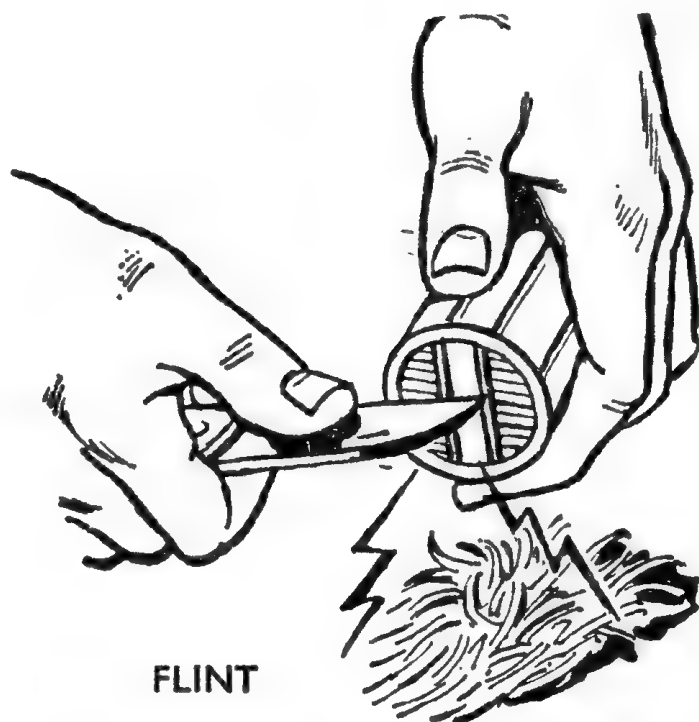
dry country, prone to forest fires, use both methods and travel on with a clear conscience.

## Methods of Kindling

62. Although one reads of various methods of kindling a fire, apart from using matches, most of these will be found rather unsatisfactory. Rubbing pieces of wood together, or producing a spark from two stones or flints is all very well, but in practice it will not produce results in the hands of the inexperienced. It is, however, most essential for the "jungle hiker" to conserve his waterproof matches, as, rather obviously, these are going to be the easiest means of producing fire.

63. Another satisfactory way is by using a piece of magnifying glass, or lens; often termed a "sun-glass". Aircrew flying over desolate tropical country should always see that they have one amongst the various "odds and ends" they choose to carry with them.

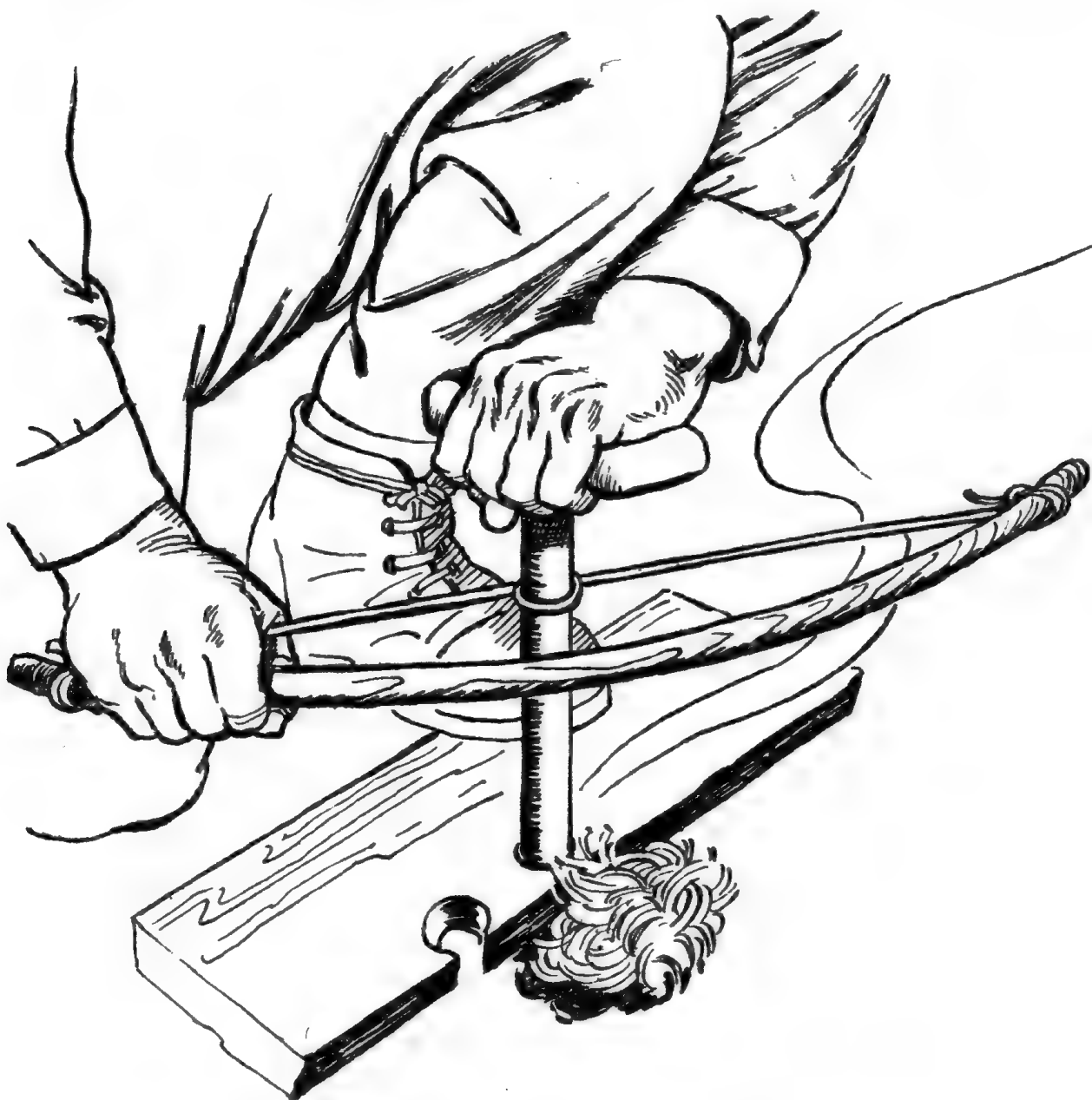
64. If faced with the necessity of producing flame without matches first of all see that you have everything ready to start a fire, such as plenty of dry small wood and kindling, and choose a suitable spot. Then go in search of a piece of straight dry wood, well seasoned; such wood might be found amongst dead trees;





pick a soft wood in preference to a hard wood, and use one of the following methods :—

- (a) ***Fire, with Bow and Drill (see illustration).*** Draw the bow backwards and forwards, causing the drill to spin in its hole, the action should be slow full strokes at the beginning, and working up to a fast stroke as the smoke begins to rise. Once smoke has been seen to come from the hole in the block a spark should be found large enough to start a fire. Take the block, and add a little tinder, blowing gently—you should then get a flame ; but be sure to build up the fire from a small start, otherwise it will most likely be smothered, and go out, when the whole procedure will have to be done again.



BOW AND DRILL METHOD OF MAKING FIRE

- (b) **Fire Thong.** Obtain a length of dry rattan, and draw it smartly across a soft dry piece of wood. Have the kindling underneath, ready to catch the embers as they drop.
- (c) **The Fire-Saw.** This is another simple method, but requiring rather more physical strength and stamina than the other methods. It is just a question of drawing one piece of wood across another. A piece of split bamboo or soft wood will serve as one piece, using a sawing motion across another section of wood.

RUBBING TWO PIECES  
OF WOOD TOGETHER

Note: in 80% humidity  
jungle, dead wood  
is 16% water and  
will NOT burn.



## Methods of Cooking

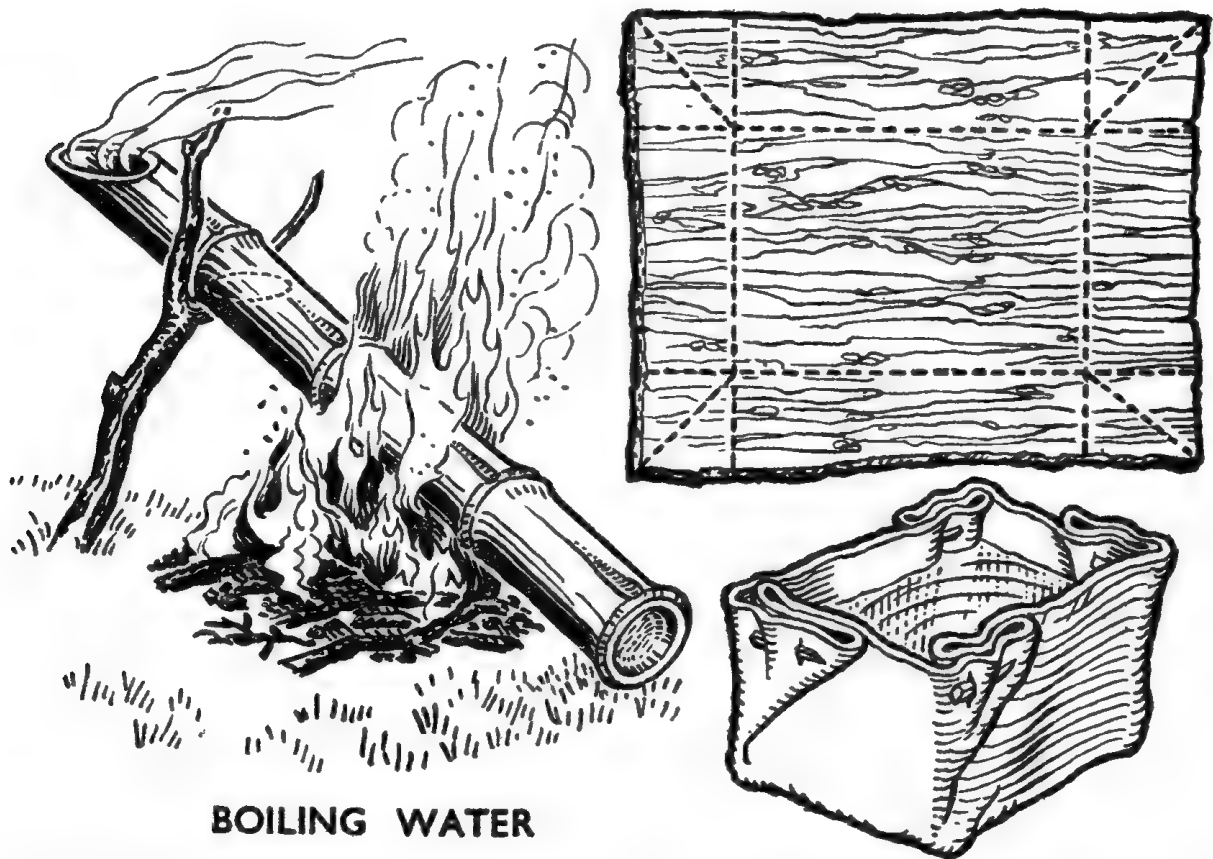
65. Food is generally more palatable and safer to eat when cooked than when eaten in its raw state, and there is no reason why anyone stranded in tropical country shouldn't have a hot cooked meal. Probably the most simple method is by "broiling" over a fire; all that is required is the fire and some means of supporting the food. This method can be used to great advantage with fish, and small joints, or animals.

66. Yams, potatoes, and some other roots can be placed immediately in the fire, and left until they feel tender. Clean, and remove the skin, and the meal is ready for serving.

67. The gipsy method of cooking certain types of meat is another simple, yet very effective, method. This involves the collection of mud, or clay ; the food to be cooked is covered with it and placed in the fire. When ready remove from the fire and when the clay is broken open, the food will be found clean, and ready to eat. In the case of the porcupine, this method also removes all his quills with the greatest of ease.

68. Boiling food is always a good stand-by, and it is generally a question of finding a container in which to boil the water. This should not cause any difficulty, particularly if in the vicinity of a jungle stream or river, as a selection of bamboo will, no doubt, be found along its banks. There are two simple methods of boiling with the aid of bamboo, which incidentally will last for only two or three meals, before the wood becomes charred and leaks. If a considerable quantity of water is required, take a length of bamboo, perforate each water-tight section, except the bottom one, suspend over the fire, using a forked stick, in the manner of the illustration.

69. If only a small quantity of water is required to boil some fruits or vegetables, etc., take one section of bamboo, cut a hole in the top, and suspend over the fire by means of two horizontal sticks, or two pieces of jungle vine or rattan.



BOILING WATER

70. If bamboo is not available make a vessel from fibrous barks or leaves. A container thus made will not burn below the water-line ; moisten the area above the water-line to reduce the risk of the

container burning from the top. Keep the fire small, and the flames low, and there should be little difficulty in producing the required results.

## **Suggested Methods of Cooking various Types of Wild Food**

71. *Fruits.* Boil succulent fruits, and bake or roast the thick-skinned and tougher variety.

72. *Potherbs (vegetables).* These are best boiled. In some cases, it may be necessary to boil in two or three changes of water in order to remove undesirable acids, etc.

73. *Roots.* Either bake, roast, or boil ; the former is probably the easiest of the three methods in this case.

74. *Small Game.* These may be cooked whole or in part ; if uncertain as to the quality of the meat, boil first, then roast or broil.

75. *Fish.* All methods of cooking are suitable for fish meat, and remember that most of the fresh water fishes should be boiled, before eating or cooking by any other method.

76. *Reptiles.* The smaller varieties can be toasted over a fire, but such things as snakes, eels, and turtles are best boiled. In the case of the latter, when cooked the shell will come away from the meat ; it makes a good meal if boiled in vegetables, with the meat cut up. Serve as a stew or soup.

77. *Crustaceans.* The simplest method of cooking these is by boiling. They require little cooking, but will spoil very quickly after being caught.

## **SALT**

78. This is required in cooking, and to ensure the proper functioning of the human body. It can be obtained from sea water, also the ashes of burned nipa palm boughs, hickory, and one or two other plants contain salt that can be dissolved out in water. The salt remaining after evaporation is a dark gritty substance. The salt tablets from the Tropical First Aid outfit can be used for cooking.

## **WATER**

79. Survival is more dependent on a supply of drinking water than on any other factor. Your emergency rations are no good to you unless you have the drinking water to go with them. Remember that with water alone one can expect to survive for about three weeks, but without water the average man will last no longer than two to five days.

80. In tropical forest, the availability of water is not so great a problem as its purity, and the table given later in this section shows where water can be obtained, and which of the sources should be purified before drinking. All non-flowing water found on the surface should be purified, and there are a number of alternative methods of doing this, as shown :—

- (a) Use the halazone tablets in the Survival Kits, and allow to stand for 10-15 minutes.
- (b) Use two or three drops of iodine to one quart of water, and allow to stand for 30 minutes.
- (c) A few grains of permanganate of potash to one quart of water, and allow to stand for 30 minutes.
- (d) Make a container from bamboo, if nothing else is available and boil for at least three minutes.



RAIN TRAP

81. Numerous jungle plants have natural receptacles in which water will be found ; though in certain cases, such as the cups of the pitcher plants, the water will be foul with decaying insects and quite impossible to drink. One of your most plentiful sources of water is in the jungle vines, or the rattans, which hang suspended amongst the trees and jungle vegetation. By cutting a length of about four feet, from the lower portion of the vine, the jungle



hiker will obtain a quantity of cool refreshing water, in no need of purification. A word of warning, however; look out for those vines giving a milky or dark-coloured sap, as they should be avoided.

82. When drinking from a jungle stream, if you consider the water pure and fit for drinking, don't drink direct from the surface, but cup your hands, or use a drinking mug of some sort, so that you can see what you are drinking, and avoid swallowing such things as leeches, or other small water life. If you find a plentiful water supply, drink as much as you can, as the body can store plenty of water for future use.

83. At times, it is often found necessary to use for cooking and drinking, water obtained from animal watering places, or large rivers, the water being muddy, and cloudy. This is not necessarily dangerous, and this water can be purified by one of the methods mentioned above. It is better to filter this water, and endeavour to clear it; this can be done by allowing it to stand for a while, overnight perhaps, with a cover on the container. Then, to filter, use a sand-filled cloth, or a bamboo stem, filled with leaves or grass.

84. *Sources of Water in Tropical Forests.* Fresh water, not in need of purification :—

- (a) *Rain.* Build a rain trap from large leaves, with framework made up from bamboo or branches.
- (b) *Jungle Vines (and Rattans).* Select the lower loop of any vine, and cut out a length of four or five feet, from which drinkable water may be drained.
- (c) *Streams.* All fast flowing streams, having a mixed sandy and stone bed, provide clean water. If there is no sign of animal deposits, or sewage within half-a-mile up stream, this water will also be pure, and ready for drinking.
- (d) *Plants.* During the monsoon or rainy season water can be collected from natural receptacles found on various plants. This will be fresh rain water, and fit for human consumption.
- (e) *Bamboo.* In the base of large bamboo stems will be found drinking water. It is not possible to guarantee finding water from this source on every occasion.
- (f) *Coconuts.* In the green unripe coconut will be found a very good substitute for fresh water, i.e. "coconut milk". One nut may contain as much as two pints of this delicious cold fluid. Do not drink the "milk" from the ripe, or fallen coconuts.

## 85. *Sources of Water which should be Purified before Drinking*

- (a) **Water Holes.** Water found here will probably be muddy, and with pieces of rotten vegetation in it, so filter it first, then allow to stand for a few hours, filter again, then purify by one of the methods suggested at para. 80.
- (b) **Digging.** Treat water as for (a) above. If on the sea-shore, dig a small hole a few yards above high tide, and as soon as you find water collecting, stop digging. Water collected in this way should be fairly free from salt, the fresh water floating on the top of salt water, hence don't go too deep. The water obtained in this way may taste slightly brackish, but will be safe to drink. If very strong, filter it a few times, or try again further up the fore-shore.
- (c) **Stagnant Water.** This is not necessarily infected, but in order to make sure, filter it, then purify. Stagnant water may be found in small pools, amongst rocks, dead tree-stumps, etc.
- (d) **Large Rivers.** This water will be muddy and probably infected, so treat as for water holes.

## SOLID FOOD

86. Plant food alone is not likely to keep you alive indefinitely unless you are prepared to spend all day hunting for it. It will, however, prove a welcome addition to other food and will keep starvation away for several days. There are a number of potential food plants to be found throughout the jungle, but the most common, found in abundance in the tropics, are mentioned here. These are selected because of their abundance, simplicity of preparation for eating, and comparative ease with which they can be recognized.

87. In addition, it is to be strongly recommended to those stationed in tropical areas that they obtain the assistance of a native guide, and arrange for an instructional walk through a typical part of that country over which they operate, or visit the nearest botanical gardens.

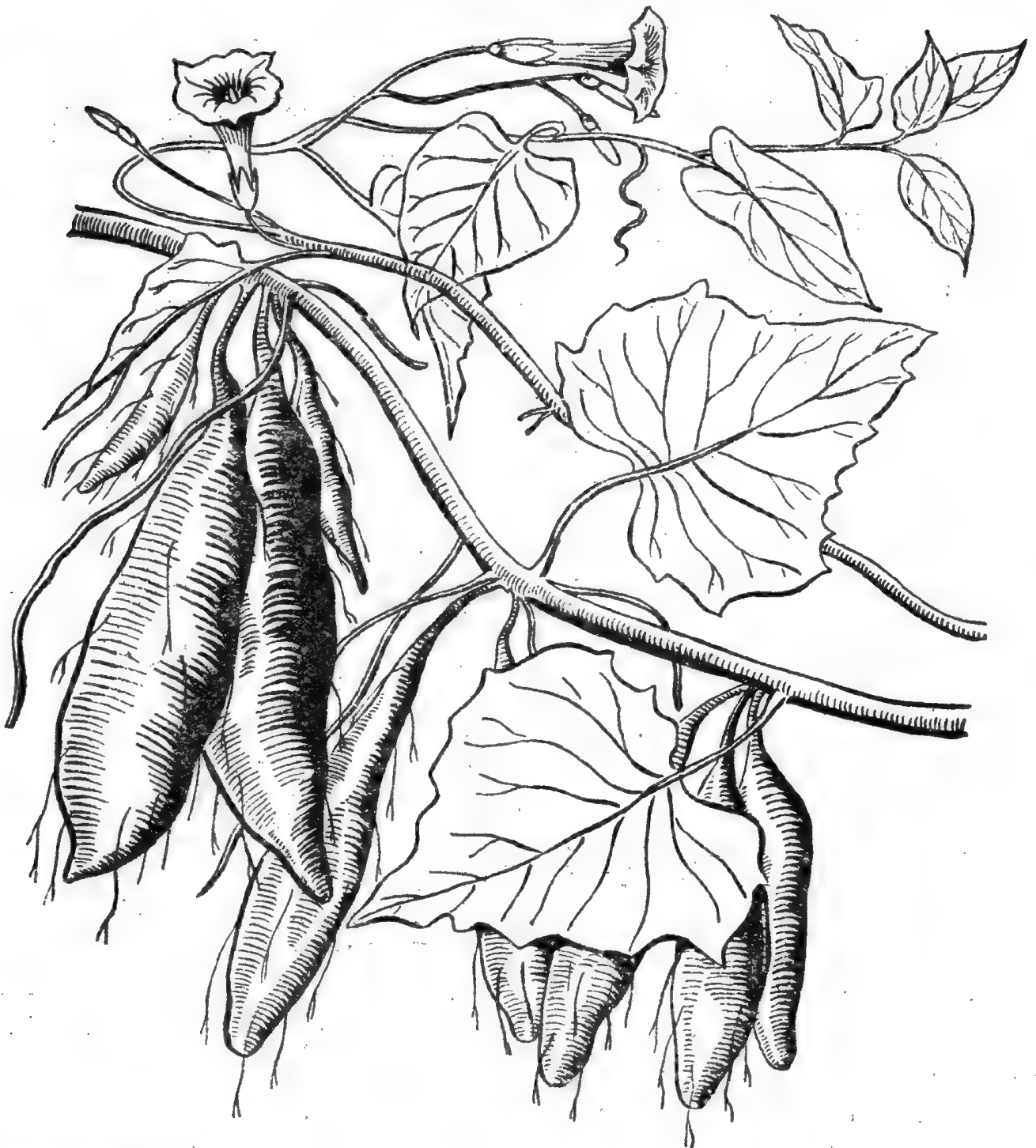
88. There is no need to worry unduly about the effects of poisonous plants, for though a few might be considered highly dangerous, the greater number will most likely cause you to be indisposed for a matter of days. With reasonable care, and by taking the normal precautions when taking strange foods, your troubles should be small. Should you at any time be uncertain of the plant you wish to try, the following points may be of guidance :—

- (a) Eat sparingly of any strange plant, until you can be quite certain as to the reaction, if any, it might have on you.

- (b) Avoid all those things which are unpleasant to the taste, those which are bitter, or acid, etc.
- (c) Avoid those plants, with one or two special exceptions, which give a milky or soapy sap.
- (d) If in doubt, endeavour to see what the monkey thinks of the food, for you can always rely on him deciding whether plants are fit to eat.

## Selected Foods

89. *Sweet Potatoes*. Have a vine-like growth, with leaves, and flowers that resemble those of the "morning glory". The potatoes



SWEET POTATO

may be eaten raw or cooked, the latter by placing in a ground oven, or in the base of a fire after which clean them, and peel. In addition to the potato, the young shoots and leaves are delicious when boiled, and make an excellent substitute for spinach.

90. *Taro*. A plant two or three feet in length, with a large heart-shaped leaf, resembling "elephant ears". Taro has thick potato-

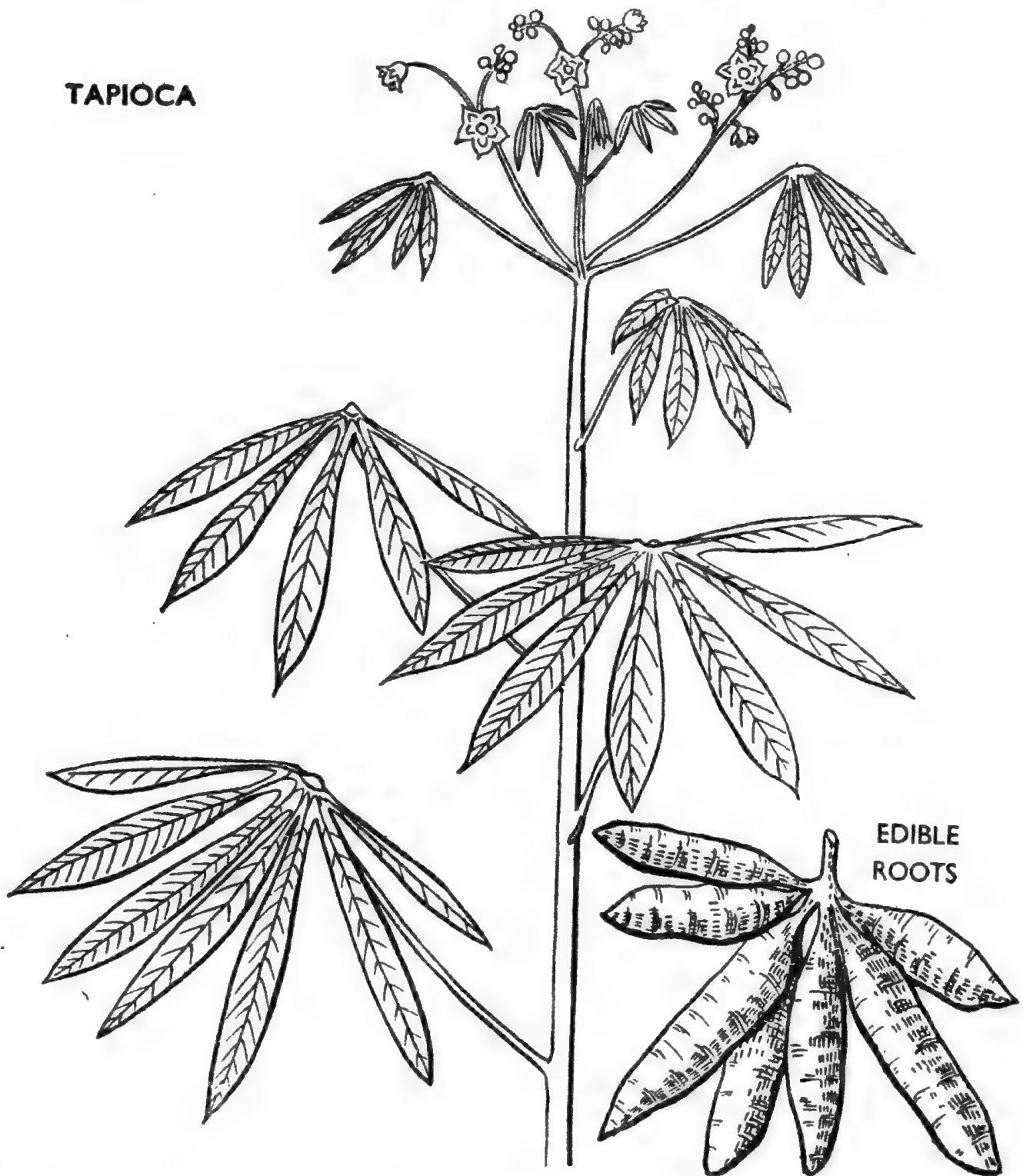


TARO

like roots which differ in size, according to variety. This plant provides one of the natives' staple foods. The roots and young leaves and stalks are all edible, but must be cooked, by boiling or roasting, which are generally the simplest of methods. After cooking, the roots may be peeled, then mashed into a doughy-like

mass, with the addition of a little water. This may be preserved, if required, for a few days, by wrapping in leaves.

91. **Tapioca.** Known as cassava or manico. The plant is shrubby and three to seven feet high, with large tuberous roots, this being the edible portion, which vary in size from six inches to

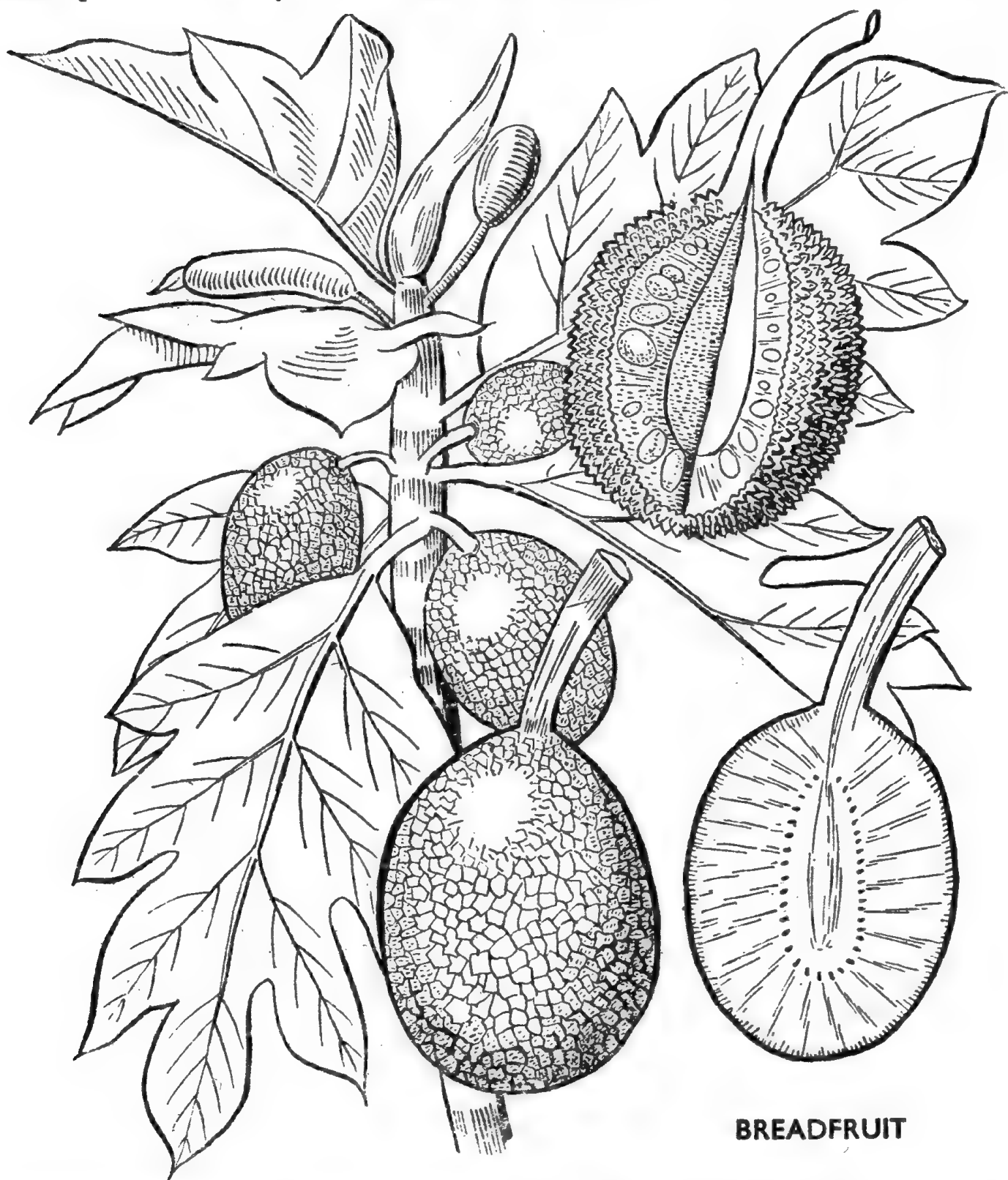


as much as two feet. There are two basic types, the sweet type, and the bitter : and one can only be distinguished from the other by the taste. Avoid the bitter type, unless it can be cooked, as it is highly poisonous, containing the basis of the deadly hydrocyanic acid. To cook the bitter type, grate or mash the roots into



pulp, squeeze out the juice, and make the remaining "dough" into cakes, which can then be baked in the ordinary way.

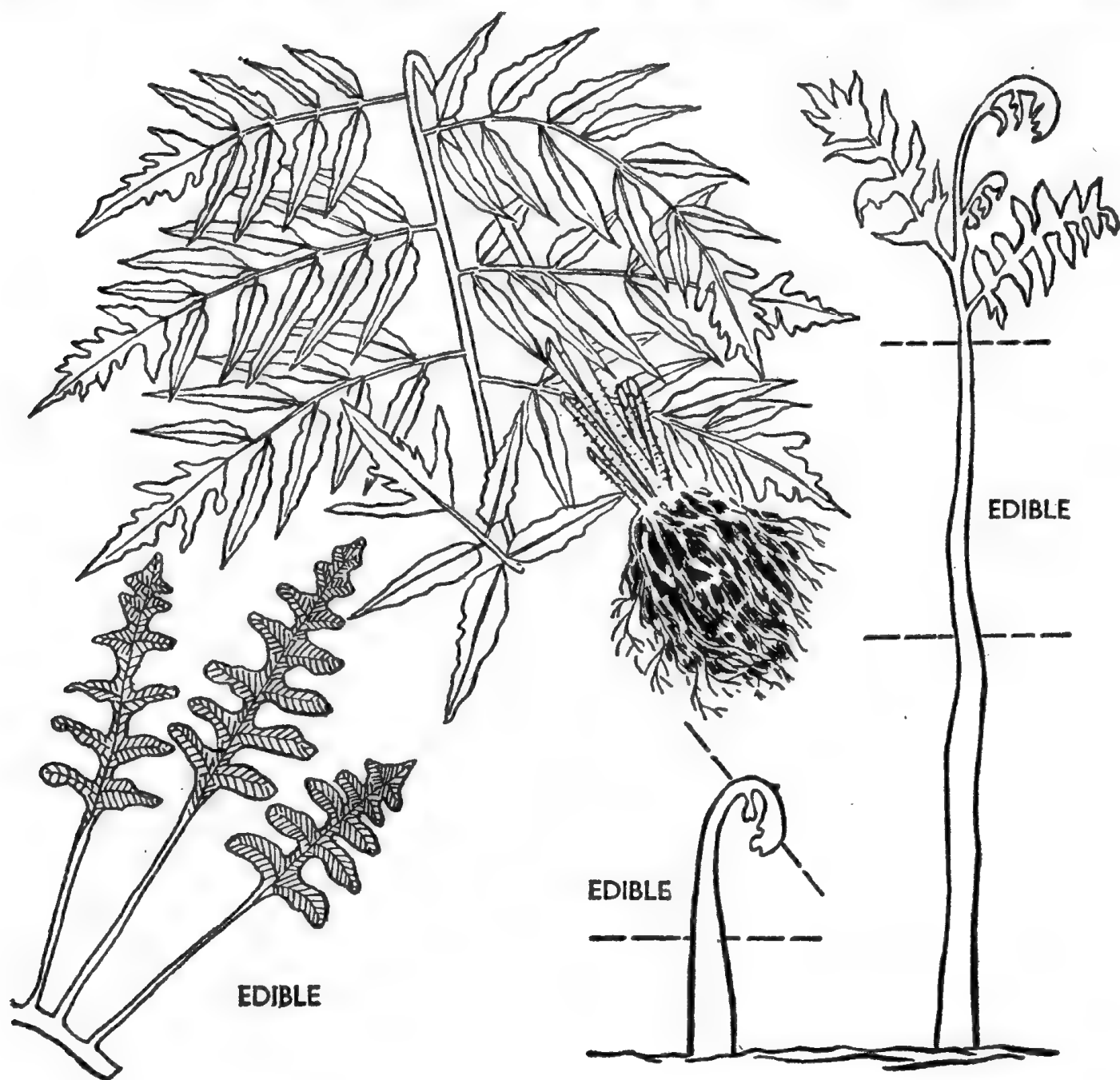
92. **Breadfruit.** Should always be cooked before eating. The most practical way is to bake the entire fruit in hot embers for



BREADFRUIT

half-an-hour or so, then peel off the skin before serving. It can also be boiled, baked, or cut into slices and fried. To preserve, boil first, then cut into strips, and allow to dry-out in the sun. When required these slices can be served without any further preparation. The seeds may also be eaten if boiled or roasted.

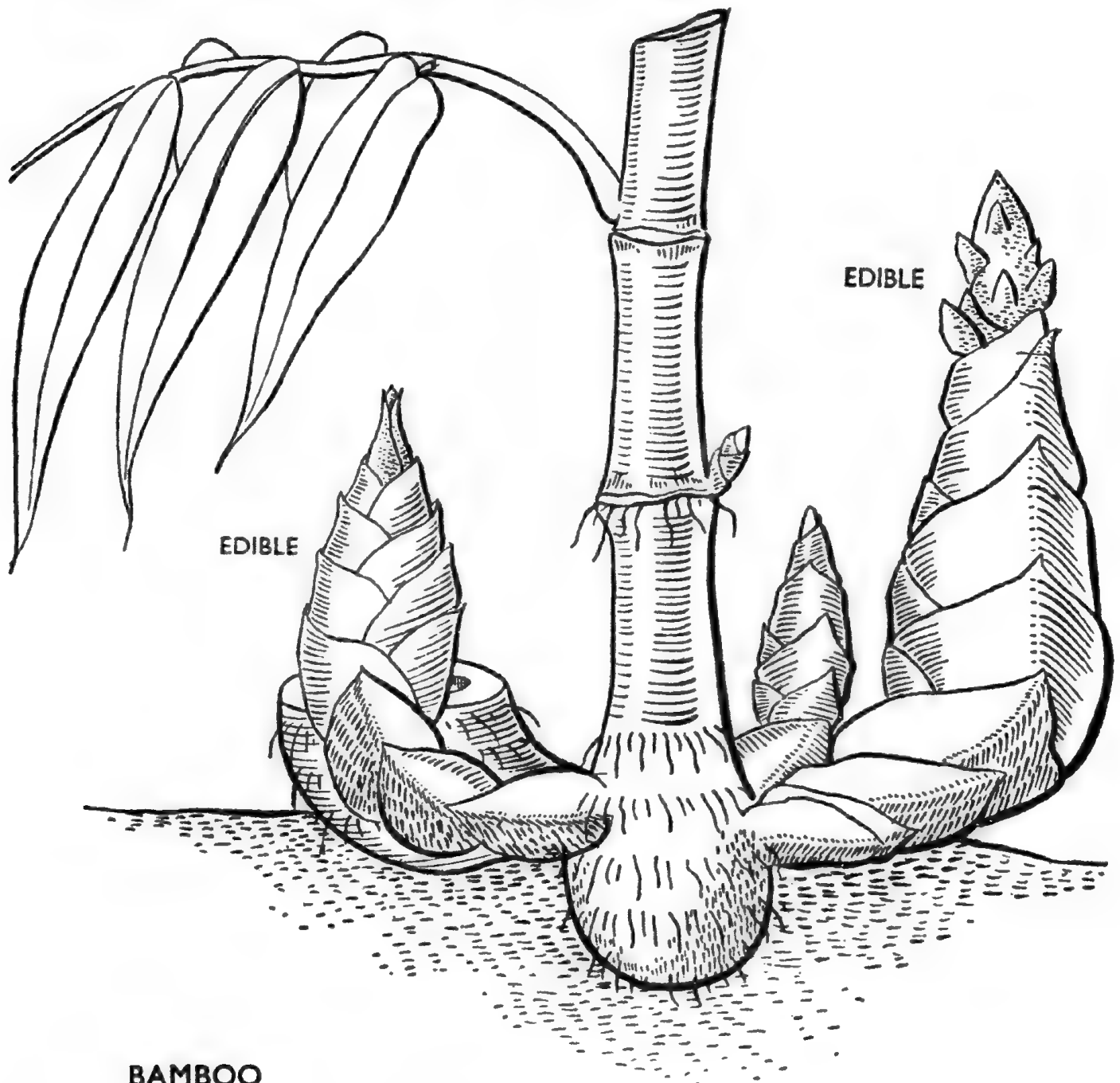
93. *Ferns*. Several varieties are abundant in many areas, and are to be found in marshes, swamps, along water courses, and



FERNS

other camp shady places. The tree ferns will be found throughout the forests. The tips and shoots of most of the ferns are good food, raw or cooked, and because of their widespread distribution, their accessibility, and ease of recognition, may well serve as a most important source of diet. Ferns, like all the food to be found in the jungle, should be taken in small quantities during the first few days, as the change in the form of diet may have an adverse effect on the stomach and intestines and cause diarrhoea. Though ferns are so readily available, they are not particularly nourishing, and if other forms of food can be found, it would be well to vary the diet.

94. **Bamboo.** Here is a good emergency food, which is familiar to everyone, and is widely distributed throughout all tropical



climates. The young shoots, up to a foot or so in height, can be eaten raw, but are more palatable if cooked. See that the fine black hairs along the edges of the leaves of the small shoot are removed before cooking, as they are poisonous.

95. **Coconuts.** These contain, not only good drink, but also good food. First there is the meat inside the nut itself, which makes good eating, and also can be made to yield coconut oil, which is a useful preventative for sunburn. In addition there is the palm "cabbage". The cabbage is found in the top of the palm, inside

the sheath from which the leaves protrude, and may be eaten raw, boiled, or roasted. Where it tastes pleasant it makes an excellent vegetable though some varieties may be bitter. The coconut is an excellent food and palm trees are numerous, but getting the nuts is not quite so easy; healthy coconuts do not fall



COCONUTS

off trees, but have to be plucked by hand. If you can get a native to go up the tree, so much the better; if not pick a small and sloping tree and climb up as best you can. When you have got

the coconut, the next problem is to open it. The husk may be cut away with a machete, but the best way is to place a stout



BREAKING COCONUTS

pointed stick in the ground point uppermost and bang down the coconut on the spike. When you have got a split in the husk, use the spike as a lever to prize it off; once the husk is removed it is easy to break open the inner shell.

96. *Seaweeds*. All forms of seaweed are edible; oddly enough they are not particularly salty in flavour, and their water content is fairly fresh. Seaweed is probably more palatable in its raw state, and the best types will be found amongst the pink and purple variety and the reddish or green types.



97. **Water Lilies.** Those types found on the surface of fresh-water lakes and in streams are a source of food. All these types



WATER LILIES

are edible, and the seeds and thickened roots of all varieties may be eaten boiled or roasted.

98. **Fruits.** It is amongst the infinite number of different fruits to be found in the tropics that the main troubles lie. There are quite a number of poisonous types, and it would be well to receive some local advice as to those types found in abundance, which are either edible or poisonous. Fruit found in native allotments is safe to eat.

## **Poisonous Plants**

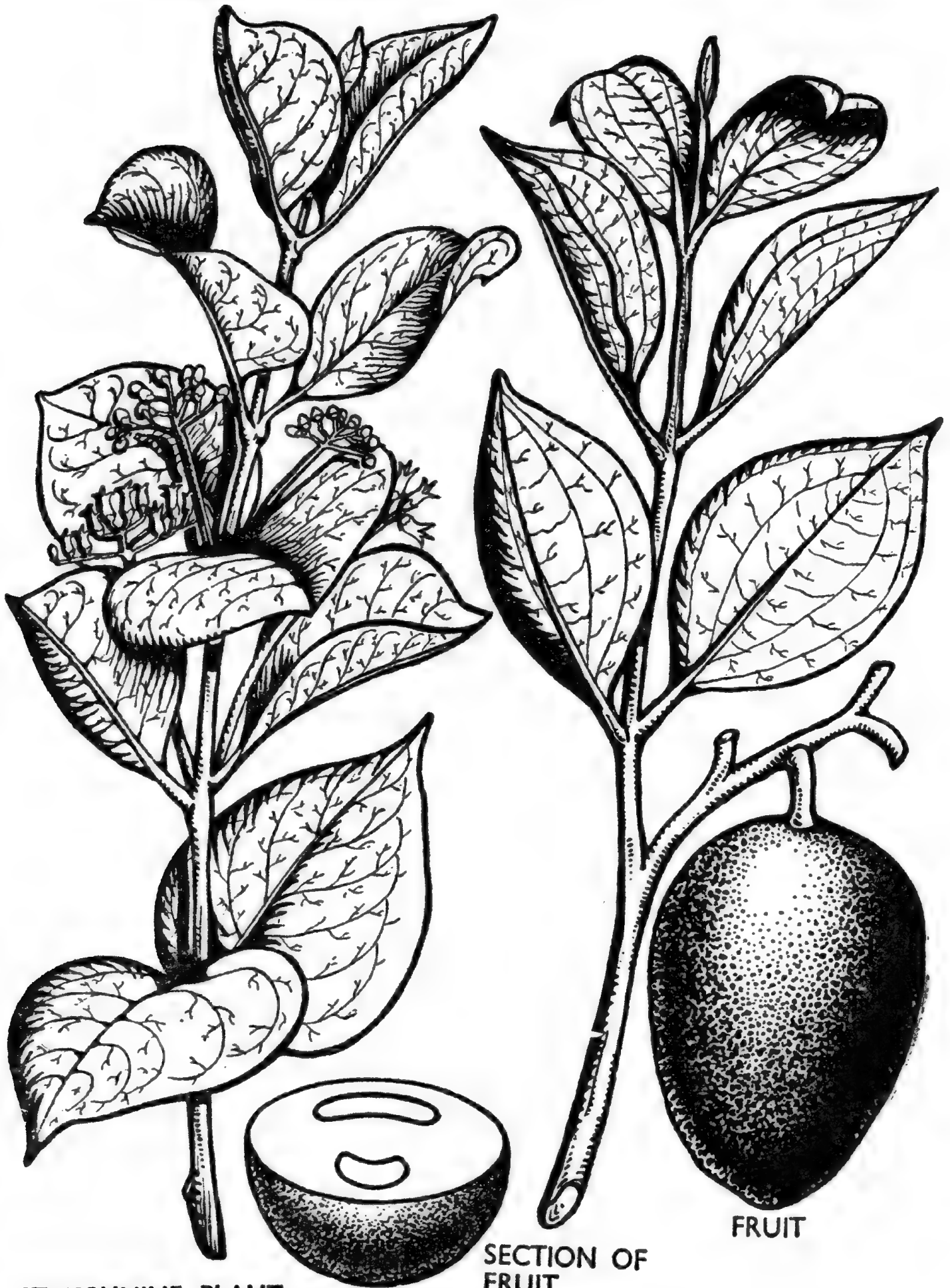
99. In order to avoid the poisonous plants to be found throughout the tropics, and in particular the Far East, the following rules should be observed and the list of poisonous plants identified and memorized :—

- (a) Do not eat red—or brightly coloured—fruits and berries unless you know them to be harmless. Avoid anything looking like a tomato, though it might smell quite pleasant.
- (b) Do not eat roots, fruits, and vegetables with a bitter, stinging, or otherwise disagreeable taste. If in doubt, taste with the tip of your tongue, or take a minute piece spitting it out immediately should you consider it to be amongst the poisonous variety.
- (c) Avoid all contact with any plant, shrub, or tree, with a milky sap.
- (d) On certain types of young bamboo there is a prickly form of down, which causes intense irritation and sores. When working this type of bamboo, be certain to wear your jungle gloves, or at least cover your hands.
- (e) Leave all toadstools or mushrooms alone.
- (f) Because birds and animals eat certain types of plants, it is no guarantee that it will be safe for human consumption, as most animals can digest foods that are poisonous to man. In an emergency, if you can find nothing eatable, watch the food the monkey eats, as you can be certain that he is eating food fit for human consumption.

100. **List of Poisonous Plants.** A few of the most common and more dangerous of the poisonous plants are listed separately as follows:—

(a) ***Strychnine Plant.***

Grows wild throughout the tropics. Seeds contain deadly strychnine.



(b) ***Milky Mangrove, or Blind-your-eyes.***

Found in mangrove swamps, on coast or estuaries.  
Sap causes blistering, blindness if in the eyes.



**MILKY MANGROVE OR BLIND-YOUR-EYES**

(c) ***Cowhage, or Cowitch.***

Found in thickets, and scrub. Not in true forest.  
Hairs on flowers, and pods, cause irritation and blindness  
if in the eyes.



COWHAGE OR COWITCH

FRUITS



(d) *Nettle Tree*.

Widespread, especially in and near ponds. Poisonous to touch, causing burning sensation. Relieve with wood ashes, moistened.



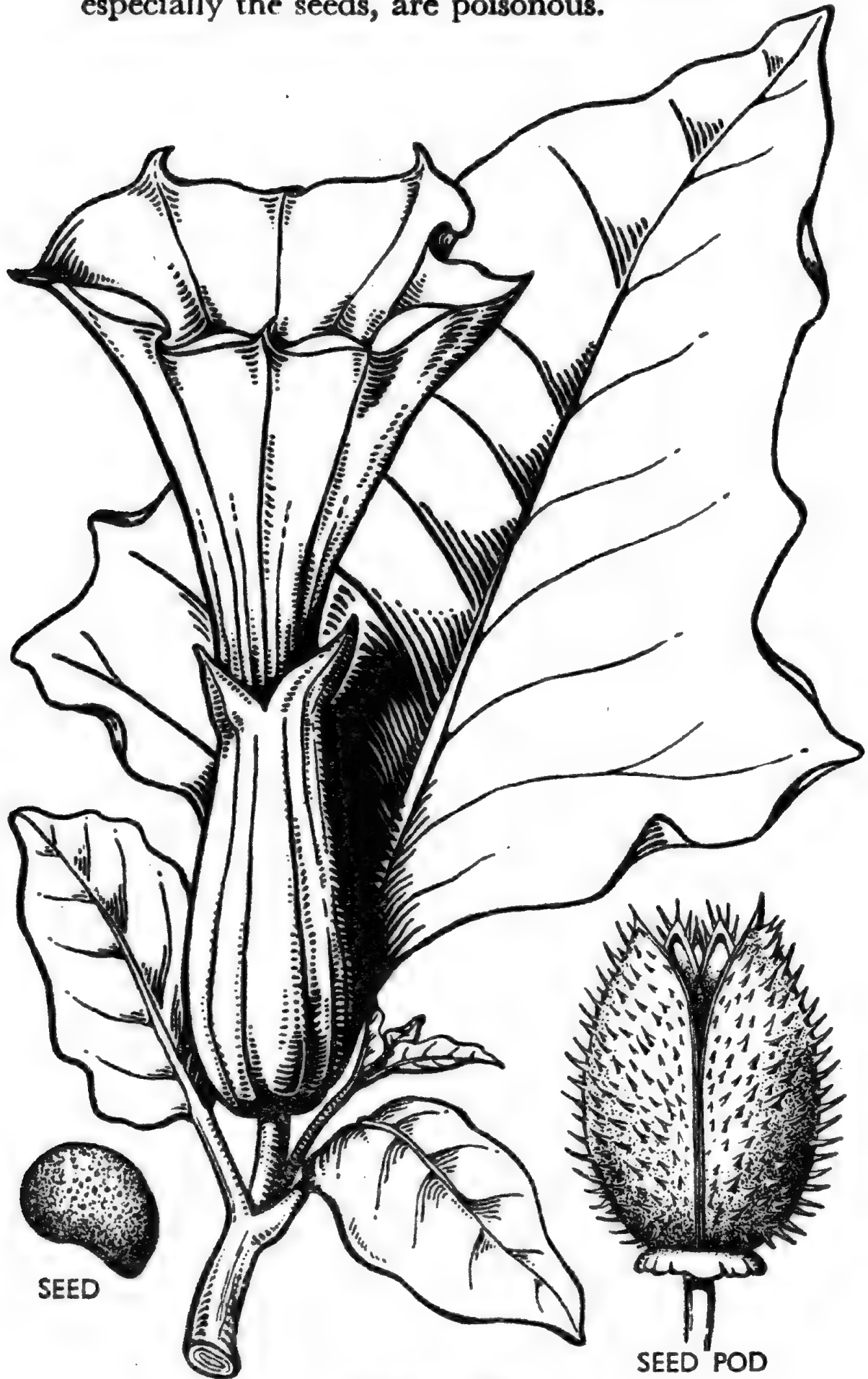
STINGING HAIRS

NETTLE TREE

FLOWER

(e) ***Thorn Apple.***

Common weed of waste and cultivated land. All parts, especially the seeds, are poisonous.



SEED

SEED POD

THORN APPLE

(f) *Pangi*.

Found mainly in Malayan forests. Seeds of the large brown fruits contain prussic acid.



PANGI

(g) *Physic Nut.*

Common in fences, and hedgerows. Large seeds,  
violently purgative.

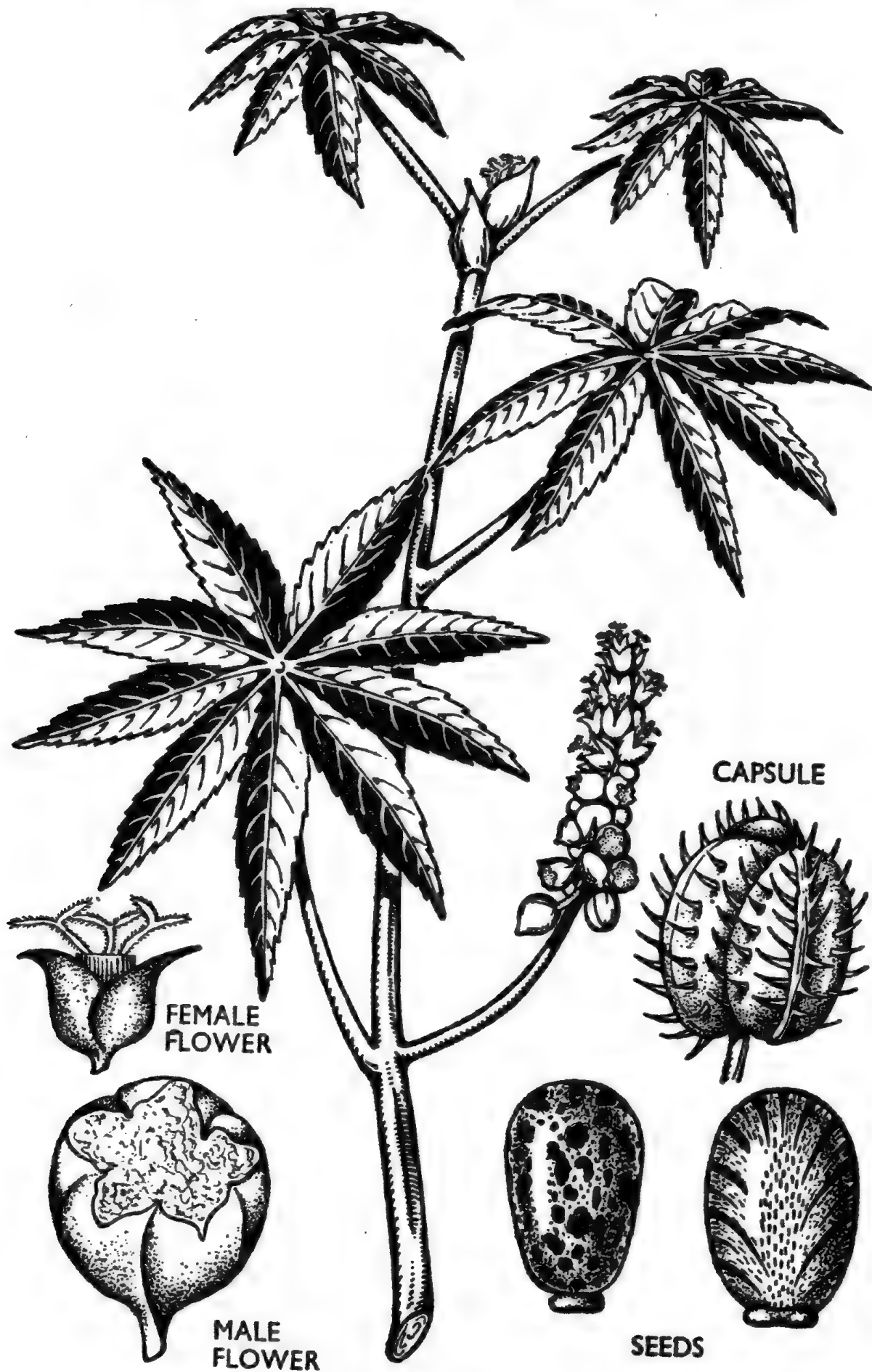


PHYSIC NUT

SECTION OF  
FRUIT

(h) **Castor Oil Bean.**

A shrub-like plant common in thickets and open sites.  
Seeds are poisonous, and a violent purgative.

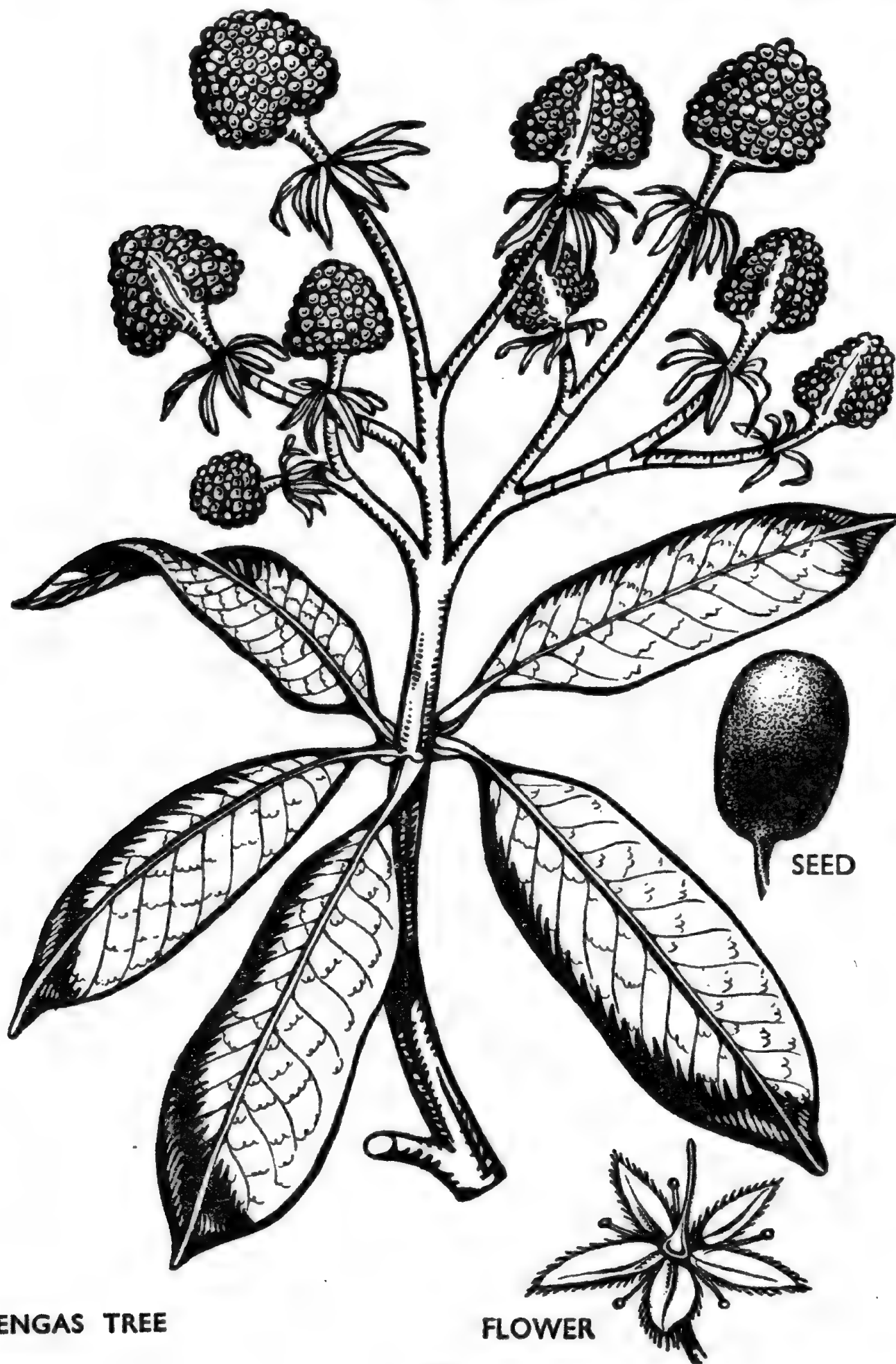


CASTOR OIL BEAN



(j) **Rengas Tree**

Widespread in Malayan forests. Localized rash caused from contact with bark, timber, or water off the tree.



RENGAS TREE

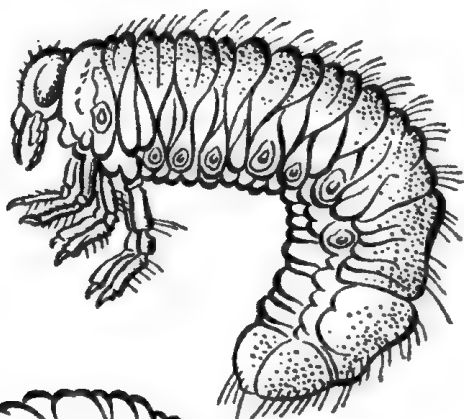
FLOWER

## Meat, Birds and Insects

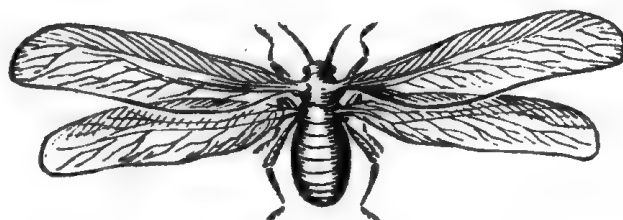
101. *Birds.* All birds are edible, though a few, including the carrion-eating vultures and kites, have a flesh which is most unpleasant to the taste.

102. *Lizards and Snakes.* All these are edible, the meat from the hind quarters and tail in the case of the lizard being the best. Snakes are not going to be so easy to catch, or to find for that matter, but if you do happen to contemplate a meal of snake, remove the head immediately the reptile has been killed. Frogs are quite good food but they should be skinned before cooking.

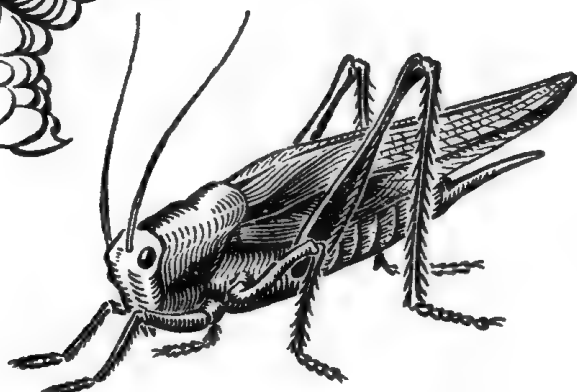
103. *Ants, Grubs, etc.* Natives consider the white ant as a delicacy, either cooked or raw, with the wings removed. Also the white grubs of wood-infesting beetles are edible, and will be found quite palatable, if split and broiled over a fire. They will be found in decaying and rotten wood. Such insects as grasshoppers and crickets may be toasted over a fire, the wings and legs having first been removed.



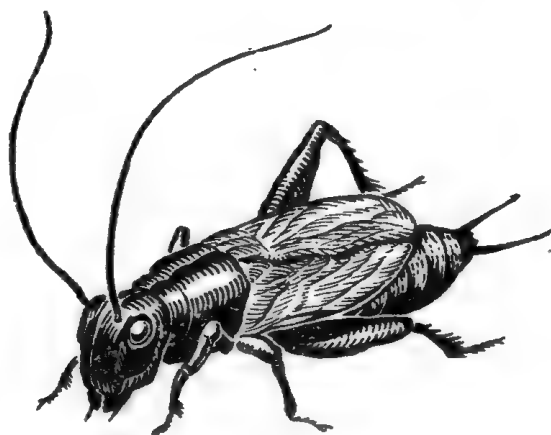
BEETLE GRUBS



TERMITES



GRASSHOPPER

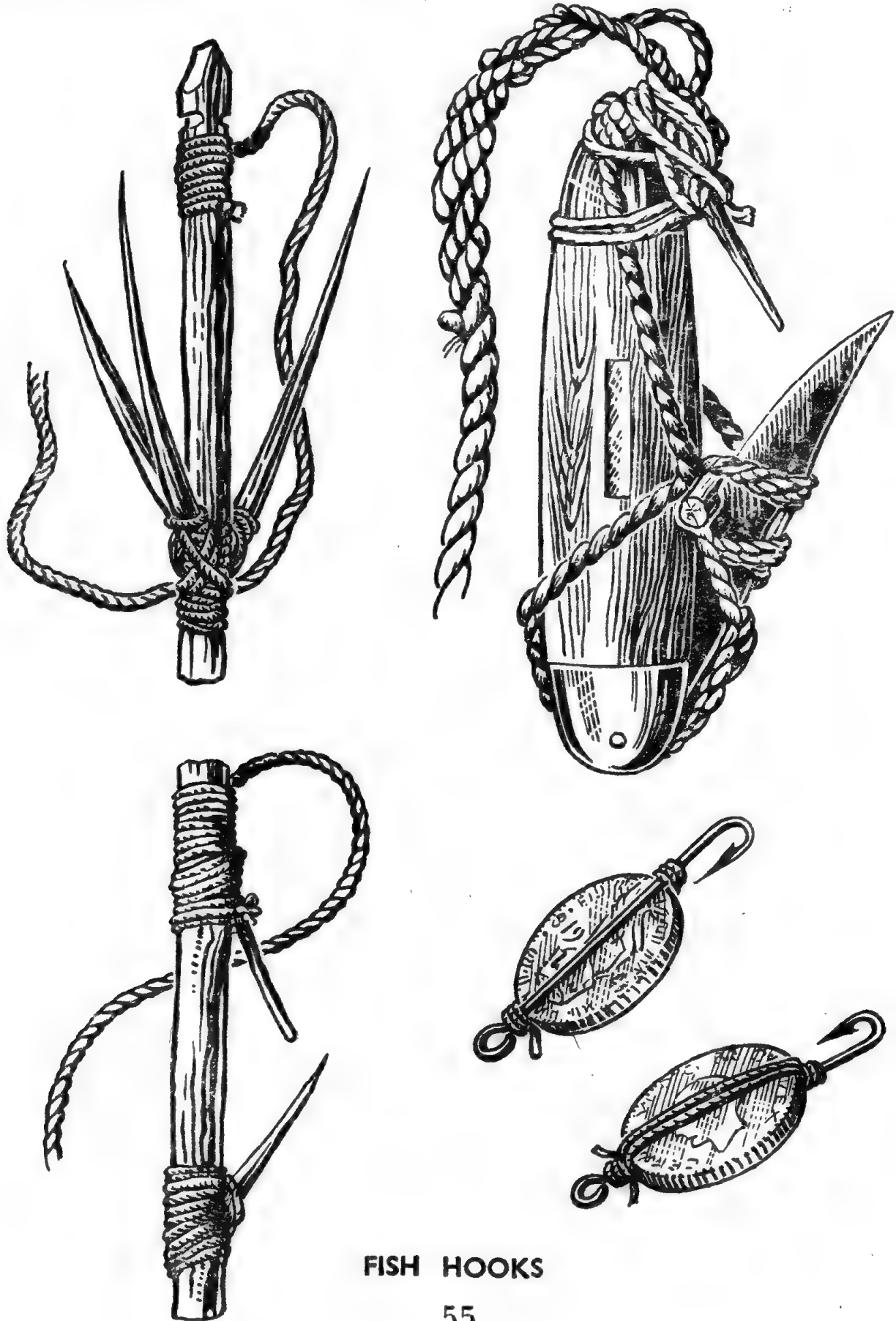


CRICKET

### EDIBLE INSECTS

104. *Animals.* Too much reliance should not be placed on animals as a source of food. They are not only difficult to catch,

but finding them in the first place may present quite a problem, and killing them and disposing of the flesh will also need considerable thought. Those animals most easily found and caught are probably the various species of deer and wild pig but you will need a gun to kill them. A bow and arrow will kill small birds and animals; you can catch others in traps.



FISH HOOKS



FISH HOOKS

## Fish

105. All areas of water, lakes, streams, and rivers contain a variety of life, most of which will be found to be edible. If camping in the vicinity of water there should be no danger of shortage of either food or water—fresh or purified—all of which can be obtained from such a source. Animal life is more abundant in water than on land, and generally speaking, is more easily caught. The chances of survival along a body of water are always excellent, and fish may be caught with crude equipment, if you know when, where, and how to fish.

106. *When to Fish.* Different species of fish feed at all times of the day or night, though there are many governing factors relating to feeding activity; however, in general, early morning and later afternoon are the best times to fish with bait. Fish rising or jumping are sure signs of feeding.

107. *Bait.* Experiment with bait, and try to obtain your baits from the water, as such bait will be more natural. Such life as insects,

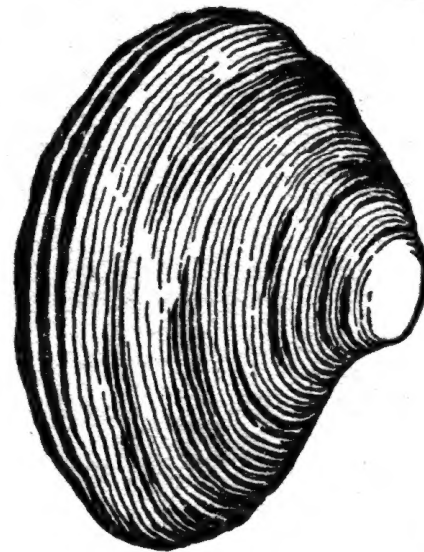
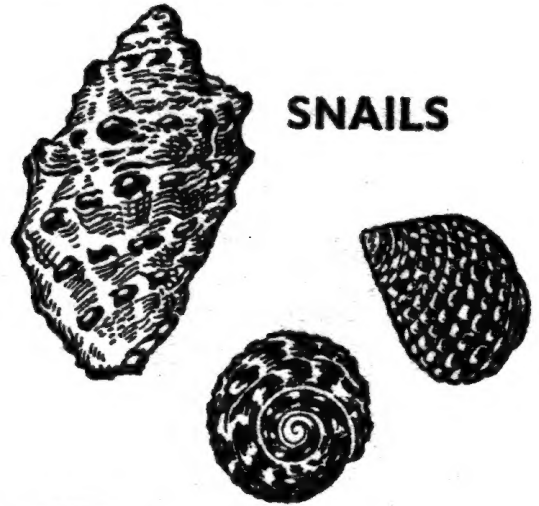
shrimps, worms grubs, small minnows, or even the meat of a jellyfish, are all good bait ; in addition the wasted parts of the fish themselves, that is the eyes, head, intestines. If a certain type of fish appears plentiful, having caught the first one, open it up and find out on what it feeds, and endeavour to find a similar bait.

108. *Technique.* Try to conceal the hook in the bait, and approach the fish upstream, as they normally lie heading into the current. In clear shallow water, move slowly to avoid frightening, and if unsuccessful, try fishing after dark.

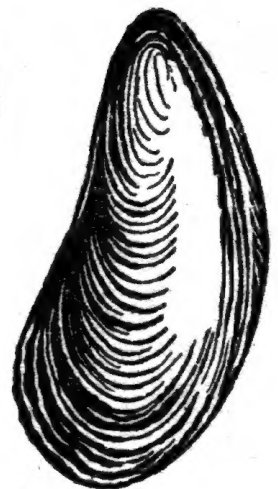
109. *Hooks and Lines.* Hooks can be made from pins, needles, wire, or any pieces of available metal ; fishing gear can also be made from wood, bamboo, bones, large thorns, or a combination of these ; see illustrations. Lines can be made from a great variety of plants, or the wiry stems of high climbing ferns, and the inner bark of trees, or the skin of the banana tree-trunk. For added strength a number of these can be twisted or platted together.

## EDIBLE SEA FOOD

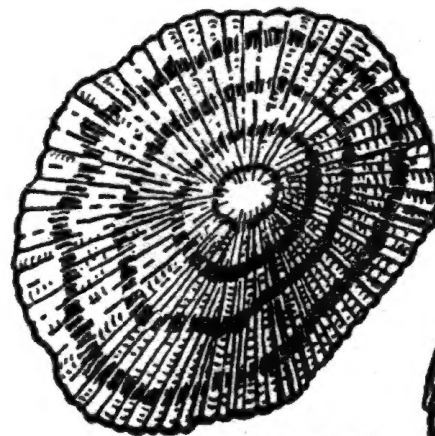
SNAILS



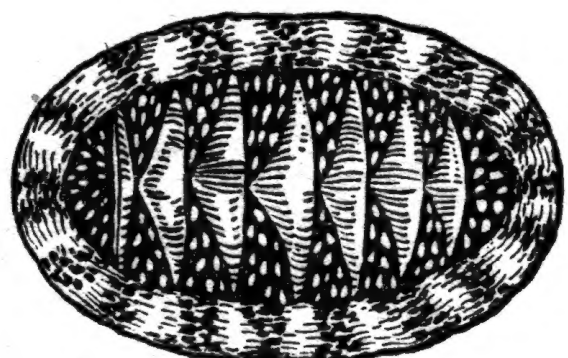
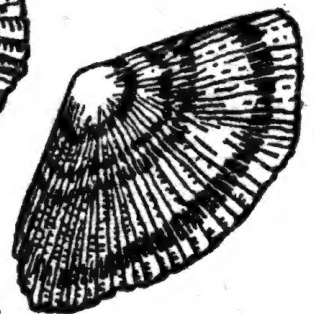
CLAM



MUSSEL



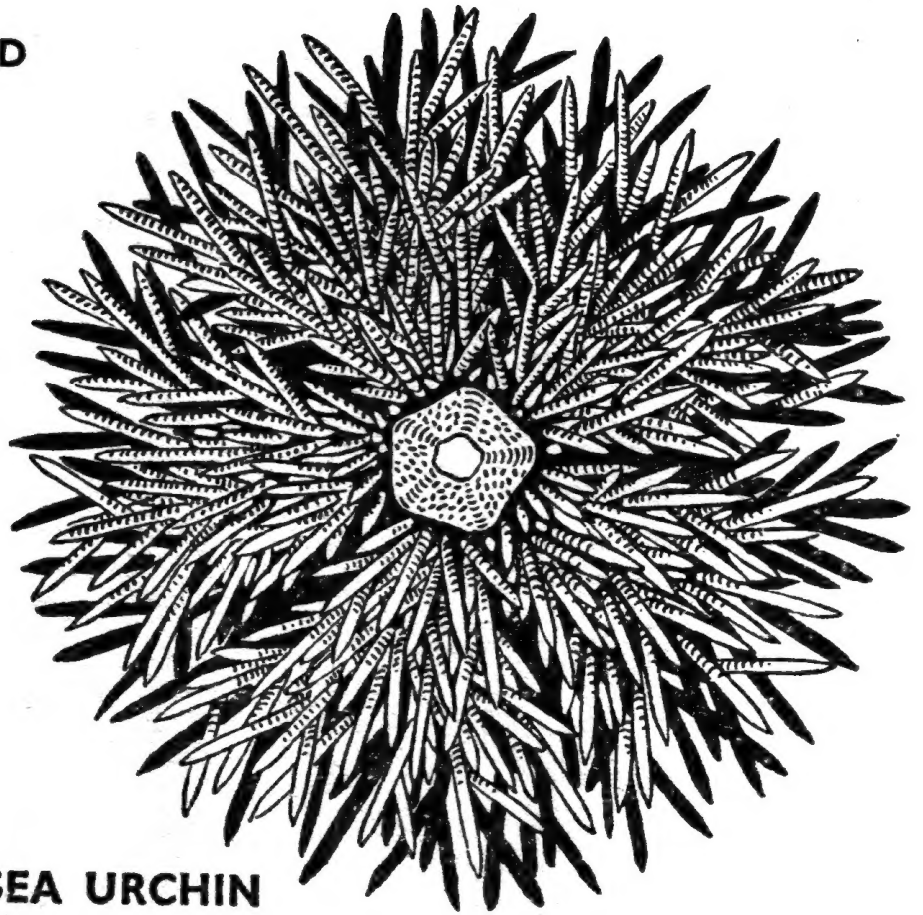
LIMPETS



CHITON



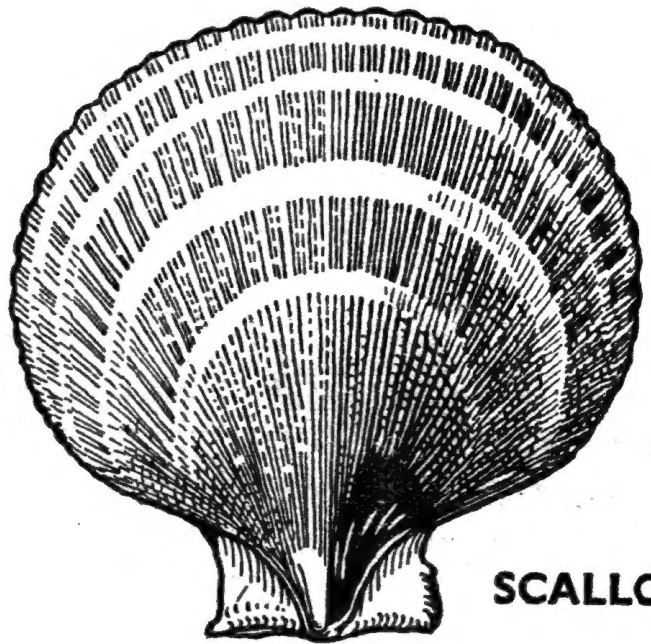
**EDIBLE SEA FOOD**



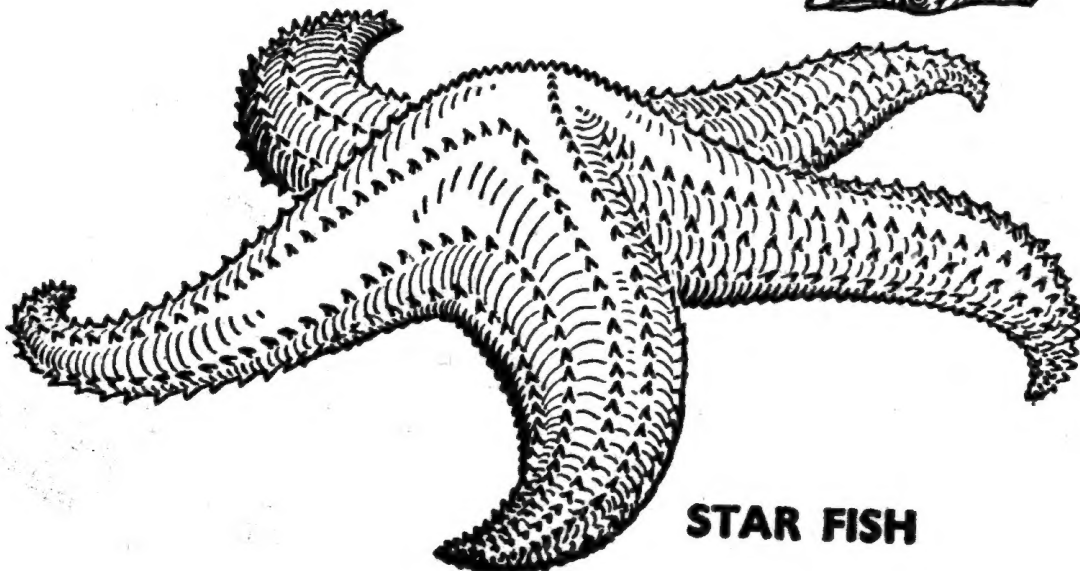
**SEA URCHIN**



**SEA CUCUMBER**



**SCALLOP**



**STAR FISH**

**110. Crustaceans.** Crabs, crayfish, lobsters, shrimps, and prawns are found in fresh water throughout the world; all of them are edible, though they will spoil quickly. As is the case for all types of fresh water fish, the crustaceans contain parasites harmful to man, and must always be cooked before serving. Many species are nocturnal in their habits, and may be caught more easily at night. All the meat within the skeleton of crabs, crayfish, and lobsters can be eaten, but the gills are usually discarded. Fresh water shrimps are abundant in tropical streams, and can be seen swimming or found standing stationary on the rocks and the sand of the stream bed. Look for them in the quieter parts of a stream where the water is sluggish. They can be caught quite easily with a small cane, with a loop at the end made from the skin or bark of a tree. The idea is to drop the loop over the eye of the shrimp, which protrudes from its head, and with a quick movement the shrimp is caught in the loop. They will rise to the surface at night, if a light is placed close to the surface, and may be scooped off.

**111. Fish Traps.** A simple and very useful fish trap, capable of catching all types of creatures found in fresh and salt water, can be made from two pieces of bamboo. The scheme is to obtain one small piece about a foot in length, and another rather larger and somewhat longer piece, perhaps about two feet. Split each piece down from the top, leaving the bottom intact, force the ends out to form a cone, and then place one cone inside the other, attaching the edges together with cord, or some fine flexible vine or rattan. A hole made in the smaller cone will turn this device into a simple "lobster pot", and two or three of these placed in the stream near to the camp will produce meals without time or effort being spent. (see illustration to para 127).

## **NATIVES**

**112.** In peacetime you can expect natives to be friendly. In troubled areas you will be briefed of possible hostility before flight. The natives will, no doubt, know of your presence however quietly you may approach. If uncertain of your reception, send one member of the party into the village first. Whilst he is away, move to another position; in the event of antagonism, it will be possible to get away before the natives appreciate that you have moved from your point of observation.

**113.** Having made contact, if receiving shelter or hospitality from

natives, throughout the time you are with them consider the following points :—

- (a) Deal with chief, or headman, and ask, do NOT demand.
- (b) Show friendliness, courtesy, and patience—don't be scared, as fear tends to make them hostile.
- (c) Do not threaten or display weapons.
- (d) Greet natives as you would your own kind.
- (e) Make gifts of small personal belongings and trinkets.
- (f) Take plenty of time when approaching either them, or their village.
- (g) Make use of the sign language; when ready state your business briefly, and frankly.
- (h) Treat natives like human beings, and don't "look down" on them ; after all, you will be wanting their help sooner or later.
- (j) If you make a promise be sure to keep it.
- (k) Respect local customs and manners.
- (l) Endeavour to pay in some manner for what you take ; using tobacco, salt, razor blades, matches, cloth, empty containers, etc.
- (m) LEAVE THE NATIVE WOMEN ALONE—only have contact with them when on "official business".
- (n) Respect their privacy, do not enter their homes until asked.
- (o) Learn their laws, and abide by them—bounds, animals, etc.
- (p) Entertain and be a good audience.
- (q) Take practical jokes in good fun.
- (r) Try to pick up bits of their language ; they will appreciate your efforts, when you make use of some of their words.
- (s) Avoid all leading questions—with the answer "yes" or "no".
- (t) Learn their woodcraft, and the sources from which they obtain food and drink.
- (u) If living amongst natives, endeavour to avoid personal contact with them as much as possible ; make your own shelter, and produce and cook your own food and drink.
- (v) Always be friendly, firm, patient and, above all, honest.
- (w) When you depart be sure to leave a good impression.